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Members of the three Otsego choirs–Chamber Singers, Bella Voce and Concert Choir–were all smiles after learning that all of them had earned the highest ratings at the District Choral Festival. (Photo provided)

All three OHS choirs qualify for State Choral Festival

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

All three Otsego High School choirs—Chamber Singers, Bella Voce and Concert Choir—participated in a district choral festival on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

And for the first time in at least four years, all three received 1 ratings, which is the highest rating possible.

OHS choir director Meredith Lincoln described the experience as "quite surreal."

"When I picked up the scores, I got goosebumps and tears in my eyes immediately," she said. "These students truly become my kids and watching them grow and receive such excellent scores is such a big accomplishment for us all.

"All of the students worked extremely hard, and it showed on the stage."

The performances turned in by her choirs also provided Lincoln with a sense of validation.

"If I am being completely honest, it also was the reassurance that I am doing things right here at Otsego and making an impact," said Lincoln, herself an OHS graduate. "I am so proud to teach at Otsego, and proud of every single student I have."

Based on their 1 ratings, all three OHS choirs qualified for the State Choral Festival at Hope College in May.

"These students truly had the odds stacked against them with six snow days and an entire week off for mid-winter break leading up to festival," Lincoln said. "They practiced hard in and out of the classroom, and it showed on stage."

The students' preparation continued right up to the start of the district festival, as many of them used the bus ride for a final practice session.

"What stood out most to me is how much the students cared about doing well," Lincoln said. "On the way (to the festival), multiple of the choirs were running their songs on their own. When we were waiting to warm-up, they were all studying their music and practicing quietly with one another. The students truly carried out Otsego's motto of 'Expect Excellence.'

"The other thing that really stood out to me is seeing the students interact with each other. The choirs have really become a family who truly enjoy being with each other. Seeing them develop relationships with each other and how much they care is rewarding."

The district festival was broken into 20-minute increments for warm-up, time on stage performing and sight-reading.

On stage, each choir performed two pieces for a panel of four judges.

The selections performed by the OHS choirs were: Concert Choir—"The Arrow and the Song" by Lon Beery and "J'entends Le Moulin" arranged by Emily Crocker; Bella Voce—"Dona Nobis Pacem" arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen and Canadian Boat Song arranged by Mark Sirett; and Chamber Singers—"I am in Need of Music" by David L. Brunner and Musica Gloria by Mark Hayes.

"Three of (the judges) give us scores and comments, while the last one just takes notes and then comes onto the stage and gives us a clinic," Lincoln said. "After our clinic, we headed straight to the sight-reading room."

For sight-reading, the students have 20 minutes to sightread through five examples that progressively get harder.

"When we were done with sight-reading, it was time to get our scores," Lincoln said.

At the State Choral Festival, the OHS choirs will perform three songs, with one of them being a cappella. Each choir will perform the songs they sang at District Choral Festival and then will be learning the new a cappella piece.

No sight-reading is done at the state festival.

Otsego Library eligible for donation match from ACCF

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The Allegan County Community Foundation's Third Annual Day of Giving—known as Allegan County Gives—is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19.

And the Otsego District Library is one of the organizations that stands to benefit from the generosity of the local community.

Any donations made to the library's Irene Galloway Endowment Fund on March 19 will be subject to a match by the Allegan County Community Foundation.

The match is part of ACCF's celebration of its 60th anniversary, with a total of $60,000 available in matching funds for Allegan County Gives.

The matching funds will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a limit of $5,000 per individual donor and $10,000 per organization.

"This special event is all about connecting people with causes that make a difference in Allegan County, encouraging them to give their time, talent, and treasure to the organizations they care about most," ACCF said in a release.

To be eligible for the matching funds, donations to the Irene Galloway Endowment Fund can be made online on March 19 at www.alleganfoundation.org/donate.

Donations can also be mailed to: ACCF, 112 Locust St, Allegan, MI 49010 with "Otsego Library" written on the memo line. Mailed donations must be postmarked March 19 or earlier.

As part of Allegan County Gives, ACCF is also hosting an in-person Volunteer Fair at The Silo in Allegan on March 19 from 12 to 2 p.m.

"We're thrilled to bring this event to life once again and can't wait to see the impact we'll create together," ACCF said in its statement.

The Irene Galloway Endowment Fund, which supports the operations and services of the Otsego District Library, was established in November 1999 in honor of longtime library patron, supporter and board member Irene Galloway.

"A lifelong resident of the Otsego area, Irene and her family truly recognized the value of the public library within the Otsego community," reads a description on the library's website. "Her public service for the library began in 1974 as an appointed board representative from Otsego Township.

"She retired from her board position in October 1999, after having served the library for more than 25 years."

The library honored Irene with the establishment of the endowment fund in her name in November 1999 at a special board meeting and the Otsego Friends of the Library made a special gift to initiate the fund.

"Her smile and warm appreciation for the honor let everyone know that evening of her satisfaction in receiving it," the library's statement said.

In its first year of Allegan County Gives, ACCF's $10,000 match helped 19 partner agencies receive $22,915. Last year, the community rallied, raising nearly $45,000—met with an increased $30,000 match from ACCF.

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24 HOURS

Otsego District Library
MATCHING CHALLENGE!

Donate to the Otsego District Library - Irene Galloway Designated Fund at ACCF on March 19th, and your gift will be DOUBLED!* Our endowment gives us long-term financial stability that supports operations and services.

*All donations up to a total of $60,000 will be matched. $5,000 limit per donor. $10,000 limit per organization.

- Donate on-line at www.alleganfoundation.org/donate
- Mail a donation made out to: ACCF, 112 Locust Street Allegan, MI 49010 in the memo line write Otsego Library. Postmarked March 19 or earlier.
- Donate with this QR code

www.alleganfoundation.org/allegan-county-gives/

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Allegan approves plan to build 42 single family homes

By Gari Voss

The February 24, 2025, Allegan City Council meeting addressed a variety of issues related to ordinance, zoning and property development around the city. Increasing housing has been an ongoing goal for the city leadership.

Ordinance 527 Rezoning

The Council began with the first reading of Ordinance 527 for the rezoning of 100 Monroe Street and 565 Water Street. The approval formally moved the parcels from a C-1 Central Business District designation to a C-2 General Commercial District. The 2nd reading and public hearing for Ordinance 527 will be during the Council meeting on March 10, 2025. According to the city's Master Plan100 Monroe Street/M-222 and 565 Water Streets are adjacent parcels along the Kalamazoo River that house the Village Market and Juan Linn Restaurant. These businesses are already operating as general commercial, so the Planning Commission approved the change to align the parcels with the Master Plan and sent it forward to the Council to follow the process for an ordinance change.

Resolution 25.07 Brownfield Plan

The Council held a public hearing and voted favorably to adopt Resolution 25.07 to approve the Brownfield Plan for 500 Delano Street. At previous meetings, the Council had approved the plan for Allen Edwin Homes to build 42 single family residential units. Allen Edwin Homes is Michigan's largest homebuilder. Their team explained that as soon as the Brownfield Plan is approved, the closing will take place, and excavation will begin. The State began allowing housing developments to be listed as Brownfield Development and to request the possible funding.

At this point, City Manager Joel Dye shared, "The developer intends to invest $12.6 million in this project, of which $4,479,396 may be captured and reimbursed to the developer as part of a Brownfield Tax Increment Financing plan; an additional $398,077 will be captured by the State of Michigan, and $1,523,713 will be captured by the City of Allegan." These amounts may change somewhat. In addition, as units are completed and sold, the city will begin receiving property tax revenue.

Reports

Allegan Fire District. Councilmember Will Walker shared that the Board reviewed the increase in responses between 2023 and 2024. Discussion arose regarding the contract with Life EMS sharing space and times when EMS has requested assistance from the Fire District. The Board will review the contract.

Downtown Development Authority. Mayor Traci Perrigo shared that much of the meeting discussed the budget and how to best market downtown. The Match on Main applications are due by February 28th. Members McLean, Schmitt and Tibbits will review the applications.

Planning Commission. Councilmember Westover and Dye reviewed the rezoning of 100 Monroe St. and 565 Water St. from C-1 to C-3 General Business District. Dye also informed the group that a final conceptual residential plan had been completed for the Girl Scout Property, and a neighborhood meeting will be scheduled.

Finance Department. The request to approve Accounts Payable and Payroll with accounts payable in the amount of $156,503.15 and payroll in the amount of $132,754.80 for a total disbursement of $289,257.95 passed.

Resolution 25.05 Single Lot Assessment Resolution of Determination. The Board approved Resolution 25.05 that would direct the assessor to establish a special assessment roll for single lots.

Resolution 25.06 approving 2nd Quarter Budget Adjustments. The adjustment of the budget for the end of the second quarter, Dec. 31, 2024, was approved. This is a reduction in expenditures from what was originally planned.

Resolution 25.08 establishing an application fee for temporary marijuana events. The council had previously approved that groups could apply for a temporary license. After researching the amount, it was suggested that the group be charged a $750 licensing fee for the city. This does not include any fee charged by the Fairground.

Review of the December 2024 and January 2025 Revenue and Expenditure reports. With the new agenda format, the reports will be shared each month. Finance Director Tracy Stull shared that she would be happy to go over each line item to give specific explanations on income and expenditures.

Public Works

Water Street Parking Lot. The request to authorize a purchase order for Milbocker & Sons in the amount of $110,371.60 for improvements to the Water Street parking lot and a budget adjustment in the amount of $125,000.00 for this project were approved.

As per the discussion during previous meetings, the Water Street parking lot between Meyers Bumper to Bumper and the Perrigo Outlet Store requires major repairs. Dye spoke with Milbocker's & Sons to add this parking lot to the bid for the Hubbard St. Lot. The $110,371.60 will refurbish the whole lot.

Mahan Park Furniture. The Council approved the purchase order in the amount of $25,385 for the furniture for the Mahan Park Improvement Project and a total budget adjustment of $99,867.64 to the Mahan Park Improvement Project Budget. Thanks to grant funds, this project is under the original amount that the city budgeted.

City Manager & City Clerk

The request to adopt Resolution 25.09 to approve **a charitable gaming license** for the AHS Safe Celebration Committee was approved. The state requires the local government to verify that the committee is truly a non-profit. This will allow the Celebration Committee to have a pig raffle. The proceeds will go to fund the graduation parties.

The 500 Delano Street project by Allen Edwin Homes will make available 42 housing units of which 5 will be low-income rentals. The Allegan City Council approved the Brownfield Plan which will allow the group to apply for some subsidies to make the entire project more fiscally feasible.

Update on the rental inspection program and city code enforcement

After 16 months into the new rental inspection program, PCI is still crawling because of several issues. The city has sent proposed ordinance changes to the attorney. These are also being reviewed by PCI. The new rental inspection ordinance will address that landlords pay the inspection fees; the fees will be better described; a clear penalty fee if inspections were not scheduled; an updated list of rentals that specifies commercial properties like second floor apartments downtown; and the new inspection letter will clearly indicate that it is from the City of Allegan.

Letters had been sent with no response. Clearly, the owners did not seem to understand that the letters were from the city and required a response. Landlords must schedule reinspection. Residents must meet the International Property Maintenance Code. Follow-up inspections must demonstrate that listed items are corrected.

The meeting closed after a brief round table from the city manager and a couple council members with a promise to speak with a couple who had questions about the Delano Street project.

"Pawsitive Change" Walk-a-Thon

The Students Council and Be Nice Team at L.E. While Middle School in Allegan are having a big push to raise funds to secure a Facility Dog from Paws With A Cause. Students have been collecting pledges to support their efforts. The community is welcome to donate any amount to assist with bringing a trained support dog that can work with students and staff to brighten their days. The Walk-a-Thon will be in the Field House be Friday, February 28, 2025, with the 7th graders walking from 7:45-8:30am; 8th graders from 8:45-9:40am; and 6th graders from 10:35-11:20am. Donations can be made at https://gofund.me/01a38cef or send a check to Allegan Public Schools, 550 5th St., Allegan, MI 49010 with a notation "Pawsitive Change" or "LE White Facility Dog". For more information, call Ms. Laura Feffer at (269) 673-2241.

Local chicken farms face many obstacles in bringing eggs to market

By Cindy Sasser

A story about egg prices quickly headed down the rabbit hole when questions were posed to the people of Allegan County who raise egg-laying chickens. These are the people who are living the underlying reality of what's going on. People who are desperately trying to keep their chickens healthy and alive. The average consumer is completely unaware of their plight; and while it may be on a smaller scale, it absolutely depicts the severity of what we're currently dealing with in the United States. It's far bigger than excessive egg prices in the grocery store.

A highly experienced flock owner shared the reality of raising egg-laying chickens; she said, "I think what you're missing are answers from the local Veterinarians about how many sick chickens they've seen and had calls on"

An extremely knowledgeable poultry exhibitioner said, "Biosecurity challenges also affect supply and we have also experienced, first hand, the difficulty of protecting our flock from illness."

Flock owners of Allegan County are rightfully scared and they're looking for answers. They express that in decades of raising chickens, they've never experienced this issue before. They indicated that if they knew what the commercial farmers are doing, they could implement those steps themselves.

"Quarantine and treatment is costly and hard work..... but the regulations with commercial flocks are different so quarantine and treatment aren't options a lot of the time. Regulations require the culling of healthy birds as a prevention and it definitely affects supply.

Additionally, years ago, you could purchase the antibiotics for your flock from your local TSC or online making treatment and prevention a little easier. I understand the reason for those antibiotics being regulated but the unintended consequence of such has been that flock owners don't have the same ability to manage illness in their flock(s)."

Apparently the cause is wild birds being able to get in with the chickens for food and water. According to the CDC:

Infected birds can shed avian influenza A viruses in their saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. Susceptible birds become infected when they have contact with the virus as it is shed by infected birds. They also can become infected through contact with surfaces that are contaminated with virus from infected birds.

"I am going to be about a month out before I get one egg that I can eat, because if they are on antibiotics you can't eat the eggs for at least 14 days after you stop the antibiotics."

This raises the question whether commercial farmers are waiting out the antibiotic safety period. Uepcertified.com says that

strict FDA regulations and regular testing ensure that antibiotic residues are not found in eggs in the food supply. It says that eggs from hens treated with antibiotics cannot enter the food supply until they are totally safe. However, that applies to organic eggs; non-organic eggs have a risk of containing antibiotic residues. Now that there's a massive outbreak, are farmers adhering to those regulations? According to an article by Science Direct in September 2024, antibiotic residues can be found in the eggs that we eat:

Antibiotics responsible for restoring and protecting the health of hens can remain in their bodies and be passed on to their eggs, threatening human health and representing a limiting factor in their consumption by jeopardizing food safety.

Some good news is that the residues found in testing were below the established MRL which is the "Maximum Residue Limit," so below this limit means it's considered safe for human consumption. That limit may be a matter of opinion for some people.

Regarding the virus itself, many sources assure us that people cannot get sick with the Bird Flu from eggs or meat that we eat. They say that Bird Flu cannot be transmitted this way as long as the eggs and chicken are properly handled and cooked. Per the USDA:

As we remind consumers each and every day, there are four basic food safety steps to follow: CLEAN, SEPARATE, COOK, and CHILL.

In fact, the rare instances of humans being infected with this particular virus has only been those who are in direct contact with poultry, cows, or wild birds on a regular basis. However, that's not really good news for these chicken owners.

"The part of all of this that's hard is there is no compassion regarding how sick some of the chickens are and then you add the cold and winter on top of it and it's been a nightmare for me; it's also very scary because I don't want to get sick from them."

Regarding the egg shortage, one person mentioned that he read an article about Turkey sending eggs to the United States to help with the current situation. Sure enough, it's happening, it's all over the news now; 33 million pounds of eggs through July! This is a temporary solution while United States egg producers replace their lost flocks which will take several months. Importing eggs from Turkey is not something new, however; 71 million eggs were imported from Turkey in 2024 according to the USDA.

One very interesting point is that the Bird Flu outbreak began in January of 2022. The CDC says this (below) and they provide a pretty shocking data table about the outbreaks across the United States that is updated regularly and goes back 1592 pages as of today:

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5) viruses have been detected in U.S. wild aquatic birds, commercial poultry and backyard or hobbyist flocks beginning in January 2022. The latest H5N1 bird flu detections in backyard and commercial poultry by state and county are provided on this webpage.

[https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/situation-summary/data-map-commercial.html]

"I've been to the auctions south of us and a third of the chickens are sick. I just went to the auction north of us and there are just no chickens to be bought. Laying hens are running $25 to $35 per bird which is crazy high!"

Oddly though, the supply of chicken meat is unchanged. It's a bit confusing how that's possible but this is what the USDA has to say:

Service inspection program personnel are assigned to every federally inspected meat, poultry and egg product plant in America. All poultry products for public consumption are inspected for signs of disease both before and after slaughter. The "inspected for wholesomeness by the U.S. Department of Agriculture" seal ensures the poultry is free from visible signs of disease.

It does not, however, say anything about it being free of antibiotic residues.

"This is what happens when "we" wipe out entire flocks of commercial birds because of "AI". It's a simple case of supply and demand and if you take a real good look at what affected the supply, you will find unpopular answers.

As a serious poultry exhibitioner, I can tell you that even the chickens can be used to manipulate the economy. Not the popular response, but the truth....."

"AI" meaning Avian Influenza.

Whatever your perspective, it's a tragic and frightening scenario, nonetheless.

Gibson talks about future of police department

By Piper Raab

Chief Jay Gibson, of the Allegan City Police Department, has a very firm handshake greeting. He is a no-nonsense individual, with a big heart. He is a lifelong resident of Allegan and a 1993 graduate of Allegan High School. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Administration as well as, a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Ferris State University.

Chief Gibson has worked 28 years in Public Safety, of which includes 8 years, as Chief. As a young recruit, Chief Gibson shared, "I was enticed by the team effort and honestly; just needed a job. I did not think about that leadership would be in my future."

Clarity becomes evident about Chief Gibson's passion to serve the people of Allegan. Resources, on almost every level, are shared generously between city and county departments (from training to dogs). As an example of the resource sharing, four city officers are part of the SWAT team.

A bright Light Vision for 2025

Wasting no time, Chief Gibson describes a new approach to Crisis Intervention. The most vulnerable residents are on his radar. They are a top level priority. Officers, many times, are the first on the scene.

Recent release of statistics show, 1 in 4 women are either: burned, beaten or strangled by a romantic partner. Elder care for Dementia and Alzheimer's disease is increasing. Adolescents and young adults, in emotional or physical peril, may need care, just as quickly said Gibson.

Help is Coming

Gibson explained that the police are currently undergoing training to have a social worker ride along on calls with an officer where acute crisis care is required.

The Social Worker will be highly trained and skilled in communication, for humanitarian and compassionate needs. They will have the appropriate medical knowledge and de-escalation skills for dangerous circumstances said Gibson.

Prevalent Concern

Chief Gibson, expressed his concern regarding the mental health inadequacy of in-patient care in the Allegan area.

"I have seen people waiting days in ER, for an open spot to become available. One person waited 4 days in ER, for an admission. Many people are released the same day, with no care."

"We don't want folks in the criminal justice system. It can all be avoided. When a person is asking for help; in no way automatically makes them a criminal."

School Resource Officers

Chief Gibson continued with positive highlights. School Resource Officers: Chris Meade and Matt Luyk, for Allegan Public Schools, "the two officers were chosen in case a student preferred a certain personality."

"Each and every student they encounter, on a daily basis, is treated with great care and empathy. Trust is being established with friendships and bonds. Someone who cares."

Round About Update

The opening of the junction of M-40 and M-89 Round About has a good initial report.

- no crashes in the first 3 months
- only 3 reported crashes to date
- no fatalities

Traffic jams are alleviated and commerce continues smoothly to downtown. Semi-trucks proceed with ease said Gibson.

Officer's Health

On a final note, Chief Gibson briefly mentions, how he encourages his officers to stay healthy. He is hoping to get additional gym equipment. Lifting, self-defense, long hours of search and rescue, etc.: go hand in hand with intense training, strength and endurance. Nine full-time officers comprise the Allegan City Police Department, including Chief Gibson.

"These guys really work hard, I'm proud of all of them. We're a team," said Gibson.

Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of Feb. 24, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!
February: Peanut Butter Drive, ends Feb. 28th
Deliver jars of peanut butter or money to ACCF Office in the old City Hall on Locust Allegan
https://alleganfoundation.org/allegan-county-food-pantry-collaborative/peanut-butter-drive/
Wed., Feb. 26, 2025, 7pm: Dancing with the Star Staff
Wayland Union Fine Arts Center Wayland
Fri., Feb 28, 2925: Pawsitive Change Walk-a-Thon
Allegan High School Field House M-40 Allegan
Fri., Feb. 28, 2025, 9:30pm: Flashback - RobOCop
Regent Theater 211 Trowbridge St. Allegan
Sun., Mar. 2, 2025, 2-4pm: Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 - Great Lakes Brass
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
Tues., Mar. 4, 2025, 5-8pm: Free Mardi Gras Pancake Supper
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
March Quilt Show
Allegan District Library will display Iron Bridge Quilters work.

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., Feb. 26, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Play Café. Caregivers are welcome to enjoy a cup of coffee while the little ones play.
4-5pm: Live Birds of Prey. Join Outdoor Discovery Center and their birds of prey. Registration required at 269 673-4625.

Wed., Feb. 26, 2025, 2-4pm: Friends on Wednesday - Trivia with Friends
1st Presbyterian Church 200 Allegan
Join the fun and bring friends to create a winning team. Prizes will be awarded. Kim Falcon will be Trivia Master.

Wed., Feb. 26, 2025, 6-8pm: Wine & Canvas
LYNX Golf Course 700 M-89 Otsego
The Grill will be open during this event.

Wed., Feb. 26, 2025, 7pm: Dancing with the Star Staff
Wayland Union Fine Arts Center Wayland
WUS Staff compete to win 1st Place and the Mirror Ball Trophy. Bring dollars to vote for favorite dancer. Tickets at WUFACTICKETS.LUDUS.COM.

Thurs., Feb. 27, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Storytime w/Help Me Grow. Kids 3-5 years and caregivers can drop in to enjoy books and activities.
6-7pm: Historic Sewing Presentation. Drop in and join the Swordsmanship Museum & Academy for a presentation of the history of sewing.

Thurs., Feb. 27, 2025, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a friend and check your memory!

Fri., Feb. 28, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Sing Song Family Yoga. Drop in and join Deb Weiss-Gelmi as she combines yoga, music & literacy.
1pm: Drop in Lego Club. Students grades 6-12 can drop in and create with Legos.

Fri., Feb 28, 2925: Pawsitive Change Walk-a-Thon
Allegan High School Field House M-40 Allegan
AHS Middle School students will participate in a walk-a-thon to raise $15,000 for their facility dog. The fundraiser was organized by the Student Council in collaboration with the Be Nice Team, as a unique mission to create a caring atmosphere throughout the middle school. Donations can be made at https://gofund.me/01a38cef. or send a check to Allegan Public Schools, 550 5th St., Allegan, MI 49010 with a notation "Pawsitive Change" or "LE White Facility Dog"

Fri., Feb. 28, 2025, 9:30pm: Flashback - RobOCop
Regent Theater 211 Trowbridge St. Allegan
Take a step back in time and enjoy a movie from the past.

Sat., Mar. 1, 2025: March Quilt Show
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
The Iron Bridge Quilters will display their creations. The Quilters meet 10am – 2pm every Thursday at the Blessed Sacrament Church. All are welcome.

Sun., Mar. 2, 2025, 2-4pm: Cabin Fever Reliever 2025 - Great Lakes Brass
Griswold Auditorium 401 Hubbard St. Allegan
K'zoo Folklife/Allegan Chapter & the City of Allegan welcome all to enjoy Great Lakes Brass. Beer, wine and other refreshments will be available. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Mon., Mar. 3, 2025, 6-8pm: Teen Game Night
Allegan District Library Hubbard St. Allegan
6-12 graders can drop in and enjoy an evening of gaming.

Tues., Mar. 4, 2025, 10am-3pm: Winter Market
Glenn Community Center 6961 114th Ave Glenn
The Glenn Community Center's Annual Winter Market features a variety of vendors focusing on local produce, products, and handmade artistry. Our commercial kitchen will be open to serve a light breakfast and hearty lunch to enjoy by a warm fire.

Tues., Mar. 4, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Story Time w/ Help Me Grow, Allegan
5:30pm: Gentle Yoga. Stacy Harbour will guide us through a gentle full-body practice. Registration required 269 673-4625.

Tues., Mar. 4, 2025, 5-8pm: Mardi Gras Free Pancake Supper
Good Shepherd Church 101 N. Walnut St. Allegan
Everyone is welcome to have a Pancake Supper complete with sausage and fruit. Enjoy the Mardi Gras atmosphere and jazz music.

Wed., Mar. 5, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
6pm: Wiggle Worms Play n' Learn. 0-3 yr. olds. Drop in.
6pm: Pintesting. Space Craft. Make a trending craft. Registration required 269 673-4625.

Wed., Mar. 5, 2025, 6-8pm: Hydrangeas
Brave Art Studios 1873 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Learn to paint lovely hydrangeas. Register at https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr. For info email. brave.art.carr@gmail.com.

Thurs., Mar. 6, 2025: Library Fun
10:30am: Preschool Storytime w/Help Me Grow. Drop in with 3-5 year olds and enjoy books and fun.
3:30pm: Tween STEAM Club – Edible Moon Phases? 5-8 graders will enjoy creating phases of the moon with Oreos. Registration required 269 673-4625.

Thurs., Mar. 6, 2025, 1-3pm: Hydrangeas
Brave Art Studios 1873 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
Learn to paint lovely hydrangeas. Register at https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr. For info email. brave.art.carr@gmail.com.

Thurs., Mar. 6, 2025, 6:30pm: Music Bingo Thursday
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Bring a friend and check your memory!

Fri., Mar. 7, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2pm: Tween/Teen ED Print Necklace. 5-12 graders can paint a unique 3-D necklace. Registration required 269 673-4625.
6pm: Teen Nerf Night. 5-12 graders battle with friends among the stacks then have some snacks.

Sat.,
Sat., Mar. 8, 2025, 6-10pm: Comedy Night
LYNX Golf Course 900 M-89 Otsego
Tickets include dinner, show & dessert. Reservation required https://lynxgc.com/calendar.

Sun., Mar. 9, 2025, 8am-Noon: Pancake Breakfast
Fennville Area Fire Department 599 W Fennville St. Fennville
Come for a wonderful breakfast that will be served by donation only.

Sun., Mar. 9, 2025, 9am-12:30pm: Pancake Breakfact
SMV Community Center 2455 146th Ave Byron Center (New Salen)
Enjoy eating or taking our buttermilk, potato and blueberry pancakes, sausage links and patties, ham, omelets, scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy and fruit served up by N. Allegan Right to Life. Adults $10, Kids $5. In addition, a Bake Sale will be available.

Mon., Mar. 10, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Play-Doh Play Lab. Ages 0-7 can enjoy being creative.
1pm: Craft & Snack. Drop in with your own project and enjoy conversation and snacks.

Tues., Mar. 11, 2025, 9am: Coffee for Vets
Immanuel Lutheran Church 631 Grand Street Allegan
ALL Vets are welcome to drop in, and have coffee, cinnamon rolls, and great fellowship.

Tues., Mar. 11, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Story Time. 0-2 yr. olds can enjoy stories and activities.
3:30pm: Discover 4-H w/MSU. Ages 5-12 can drop in enjoy 4-H activities.
6:30pm: Book Club. Drop in and discuss *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.

Wed., Mar. 12, 2025, 2pm: Recess for Adults
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Play with clients of the ARC of Allegan.

Wed., Mar. 12, 2025, 5:30-8pm: Birches
Thurs., Mar. 13, 2025, 1-3:30pm: Birches
Brave Art Studios 1873 Lincoln Rd. Allegan
This messy class will teach you a variety of strategies for creating birches in your paintings. Register at https://www.paypal.me/braveartcarr. For info email. brave.art.carr@gmail.com.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Community Events

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - abuse prevention and healing
402 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI 49010
www.safeharborallegan.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon
Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Hamilton Christian Reformed Church / Love INC
3596 47th St. Hamilton, 269 751-2533

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 7-9 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org, (269) 455-9452

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090
Pantry items a pre-packaged. Limit - one box per vehicle.

Project Hope
1808 143rd Ave. Dorr
616 681-4673 appt. only

The Vine Food Pantry / Love, INC
Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave, Allegan, MI · (269) 673-2329

Wayland Farners Market
Apr. – Oct. Wed. & Sat.
Downtown Wayland

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

Bingo!, Wednesdays, 6pm: American Legion Hall
Senior Bingo!, Tuesdays from 1-3pm: American Legion Hall
Corner of Eastern Avenue and Hooker, Allegan

Allegan District Library, M-Th 10am-8pm, F 10am-5:30pm, Sat.10am-4pm:
Plus, Carnegie Corner Bookstore (Friend available on Tuesdays)
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard Street, lower level Allegan (269) 673-4625

Allegan Event – Ropes Course, Walls and More
439 River Street Allegan
Twilight Special: Thurs., 4-9pm, 2hrs. for $18
Free Game Card: Fri., 4-9pm w/ $20 food purchase
Family 4-Pack: Sat., 5-9pm, 4 premier combo tickets w/pizza+ for $130
For more information call 269-430-3961 or check online at https://www.alleganevent.com

Allegan County Historical Society, Old Jail Museum.
Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm, (269) 673-8292. Call to confirm hours or arrange for a private tour.
Email: oldjailmuseum06@yahoo.com Webpage: www.alleganoldjail.com

Iron Bridge Quilters - Thursdays, 10am-2pm
Blessed Sacrament Church 110 Cedar St. Allegan
All ages and levels of expertise are welcome. Create a piece for yourself, for a friend or for a charity. Contact Claudia at acrasmussen5@gmail.com or (269) 673-4579 for more information.

Rivertown Fitness for All Ages and Families
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11am, Core and More fitness classes for all ages and all levels to improve overall health, strength and well-being will be offered at Rivertown Gym & Fitness, 739 Airway Dr. Allegan. Call Todd at 269 686-7900 or email rivertowngym@gmail.com for additional information.

Scouting: Allegan has a variety of scouting opportunities. Each group is meeting in different ways to stay safe.
Cub Scout Pack 3026: Grades K-5. Call Cub Master Ron Gunter ron.f.gunter@gmail.com
Boy Scouts BSA 91 (boys 11-17 yrs.): Contact Scout Master Rob Keen 269 568-0435, eckeen1112@gmail.com
Girls Troop BSA 191 (girls 11-17): Contact Sara Keen sarajkeen@gmail.com.

Senior Fitness/Fit Over 50: Fun fitness designed for ages 50-80plus!
Hicks Gym, 311 E Plainwell Street, Plainwell. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9am. Drop in or call Sharrin at 269-330-3204 or email at denzgirllc@att.net.

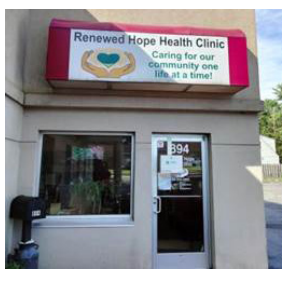
The Fairways:
237 Hubbard St. Allegan (269) 655-5890
Get assistance with accuracy, distance, course management, club selection, or distance control. Work on a simulator, and treat it like a practice session at the course to achieve overall game improvement.

Tilt 118: Ice Cream, Pinball Machines, Food and More
Tilt 118 118 Brady St. Allegan
Pinball Leagues, Pinball Classes, Arcade Rental
Contact: Email: smalltownamusements@gmail.com; Phone: 269 720-8137

NOTE:
This Community Calendar is an opportunity for all organizations in Allegan County to post events. Please, remember to send your event information to editor@allegannews.com.

Heal BETTER
Short-Term Physical Therapy
150751
Life Care Center of Plainwell
269.685.9805
320 Brigham St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
LifeCareCenterOfPlainwell.com

Renewed Hope Health Clinic
Allegan County's free health clinic serving uninsured and under insured adult residents in Allegan County
894 Marshall Street, Allegan (across from McDonalds)
269-355-3053
Office hours 9 am to 5 pm Mondays and Thursdays
Medical clinics on scheduled Saturdays from 9 am to 12 noon
Our staff are volunteers who are committed to providing medical and mental health care to our community.
Services include:
• Free lab testing first Thursday of each month from 9 am to 11 am. (call for further information)
• Medical and mental health services
• Patient assistance program application (to participating pharmaceutical companies that provide low or no cost medication for eligible patients.
• Referral to specialists where indicated
• Assistance in applying for state and/or federal benefits



Are you thinking of buying or selling your home?
For expert Advice, call one of our trusted local Agents today!

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Rheem
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122 W. Superior St. Wayland • Lumberjackspc.com
(269) 397-1124 • Sat-Thurs 9-9pm, Fri 9-10pm

How do our public servants amass their huge new worths?

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

I often wonder if I chose the wrong profession. Don't get me wrong I love my work, but sometimes toiling 60 hours a week becomes kind of a drag at my age.

I should have run for election and become a member of Congress. Salary isn't too bad at $174,000, but what is really enticing are the benefits. Free healthcare, free office allowance (huge benefit), free retirement benefits and on and on.

But what really attracts me is the amount of net worth career politicians amass. I don't have a clue how they do it (I have my suspicions) but some of them walk into office with very little money and after 20 or 30 years they are worth tens of millions of dollars.

Remember their pay is $174,000 a year. Over 20 years, if they didn't spend a dime on any household expenses, they would have $3.5 million. But we all know mortgages, groceries, car payments, kids, etc. can eat up most of that $174,000. Maybe we have some left over to invest in stocks but over 20 years that gain wouldn't amount to over $1 million.

So what is the magic behind the phenomenal new worths of some career politicians? Our elected officials need to share with us ordinary people their keys to financial success.

For instance how does former Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell, who has been a public servant for more than half a century now have a net worth of $95 million? What is his side hustle? The guy can barely walk or talk, but man he knows how to make money.

His counterpart in the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, again a career elected official, is said to be worth more than $200 million. Some say she has a keen eye for stocks that are about to explode. Others claim that key eye comes from insider trading. Whatever it may be she needs to share her secrets with her constituents.

And the list goes on and on. Chuck Schumer, Senate minority leader, is said to be worth $75 million; Sen Elizabeth Warren is worth over $50 million; and even champion of the people, Sen. Bernie Sanders has amassed a nice nest egg. All are career politicians, making that $174k a year.

It's not a Democrat or Republican thing. All politicians that have been in office for a long time seem to retire with large nest eggs. If I were a cynical sort, I would possibly think they received millions from lobbyists and donors seeking favors from the politicians. But then I reverse course, and realize our public servants wouldn't take money like that. Or would they?

One might also conclude the fortunes amassed by career public servants is a good reason to consider term limits seriously. As I have pointed out in the past, U.S. presidents, and state legislatures are limited in the number of years they can serve. Why should Congress be any different? Limit Senators to two terms or 12 years and limit House members to 4 terms or 8 years. That would eliminate career politicians and the fortunes they amass.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

I am finding it a bit difficult to keep up with all of the executive orders being signed by our President and then trying understand how this might impact my life. Perhaps it takes awhile for a signature to be converted into action. If it does, maybe we will not feel so rushed or confused. However, one of those orders did catch my attention.

He directed the people in charge of making our coins to bring to an abrupt stop on cranking out new pennies. The rationale seems right on the mark. A penny is worth, well, one cent; the problem is they cost about four cents to produce, so right from the start it is a losing proposition. The President want to cut spending, and in this case the old adage applies: Every penny counts. Even so, it was a jarring thing to read.

Like all children, pennies were part of my life. Growing up, my sister and I each had a pint glass jar with a slot cut in the lid. That's where we saved our pennies. Once the jar was filled, my folks took us and the stash to the bank, converted it into paper money, and we stopped by Mae's Pantry to by a ceramic steer with a slot in the top and a cork in the bottom. Why The Olds called it a piggy bank when it was clearly a cow was a mystery to me. I just knew that it was a lot larger than a pint jar and would take longer to fill. After that, the money went into our brand new, official savings deposit book where each entry was initialed by the president. No, not the one in Washington: the real one! The one who ran the bank.

About the time I was in the third grade, a coin collector persuaded my dad that there was "real money" in coin collecting, and that some pennies were worth a lot of money. In particular, the fabled 1909 VDB-s and the 1914 penny from the Philadelphia mint.

The old boy saw the potential for gold in all that copper, and one day he went to the bank and persuaded the president to sell him one hundred dollars of unrolled pennies. They came straight from the parking meters, which meant no one had gotten the jump on us looking for that 1909 model.

He came home that evening carrying several cloth bags for the free labor (better known as my sister and me) to start going through them, one coin at a time. He had a list for each of us that included the two afore-mentioned pennies and a few others. Much to Mother's initial displeasure, he poured them on the breakfast table in a little alcove off the kitchen. Mother, who had never really succeeded for very long keeping the dining room clean, was delighted.

We went to work, picking up a penny, looking at the date, and either setting it aside for the Chief Inspector (Father) to determine the value, or putting it in a bowl to be returned to the bags. What started off as a great quest for treasure soon became tedious. One hundred dollars of pennies is ten thousand pennies. The only redeeming feature was the periodically we found one of at least some value. Among them, the steel pennies from the second World War, a two-cent piece from a century earlier, and one night we plucked out a ten dollar gold piece.

Father said that the gold coin was probably pinched by some teenager from his father's collection to use in the parking meter. That deduction was followed by a solemn sermon about not stealing things, even a penny, and never driving a 'hot' or 'flash car.' It was the first step on the slippery slope that moved on to detention in school, slicked back hair, rock and roll music, and eventually juvenile hall. If the boy didn't amend his ways, he would end up at the state prison in Stillwater or suffer through a miserable old age at the County Poor Farm. In between, he would never have more than a low-paying menial job. At least I had the good sense not to ask, "You mean like looking at pennies?"

Father was never cut out to be preacher, so the sermon did not make much of an impression on us. Far more intimidating was whenever Mother looked over her glasses with "that look" every child fears. Deeds more than words count.

We finished our work and thought that was the end of it. Wrong. Father had made a profit of some twenty dollars, not including the gold piece which he did not mention to anyone because it was illegal to own gold in that era. He did not want the police knocking on the door. Instead, he put the gold coin away, gave my sister and me each a crisp new one-dollar bill, and took Mother out on a date night.

He got his money back on the pennies and re-invested it in, you guessed it, another ten thousand copper coins. This went on for a couple of months until he was exhausted watching us work.

But if anyone thinks that President Trump's order means that we won't be looking at our change for a valuable penny, they have another thought coming. There are some 260 billion pennies in circulation. Some of it is piggy banks, between the cushions in the furniture, or under the front car seats. Some of it is hoarded away, and periodically we hear about a bona fide member of The Olds who has a lifetime stash of them in buckets in the basement. And somewhere out there is another 1909 VDB-S just waiting to be discovered.

All of which means that even with the Executive Order, you can relax and breathe easy: We are not going to run out of pennies for a few more decades. Just know, there is no point digging a hole in the basement floor to hide them. Today's pennies are primarily made of zinc with a bit of copper for color. Even with the price of copper steadily marching upward, it is a losing proposition to melt down your pennies, siphon off the zinc, and make copper bars. Yet to leave them in the ground means they will corrode down to not much of anything, and certainly not anything worthwhile.

As for stashing them away for the future, just keep in mind one word: Inflation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Four-Legged Pestilence

Dear Editor:

The deer have wrecked my landscape! They arrived in early January and have continued to use my landscape shrubs and perennials as their smorgasbord. For a guy who takes great pleasure and pride in his landscape this is extremely disheartening. Having lived in this house for almost 30 years, this has happened before, but usually the scourge arrives in late February and doesn't stay long, this year has been different. And I plan for it, to a degree, fencing some of the prized (and irresistible to deer) plants, banking that the others will just get lightly browsed as they wander the yard, but this year they keep coming back almost daily (yes, even during the day) to devour anything they can find. It seems hopeless.

Let me back up a bit. Having been raised in farm country, I have always had a love of the outdoors and growing plants. Which lead me to a degree in forestry and working in the tree nursery and horticulture industries for the last 35+ years. My yard of the last 30 has been my laboratory, growing various trees, shrubs and perennials to suit my fancy. As new plants are introduced, if I had room, I would give them a try. Some stayed, others that didn't do well were subsequently replaced with others (I can't make a rhododendron grow on my little acre!), especially with the shrubs and perennials, but I enjoyed the challenge of nurturing the plants and watching them grow. And the battles not only included insect and disease pests, but rabbits (who love my Iris and Lilies), woodchucks, and even muskrats that have to be contended with, but the real struggle has and continues to be the DEER!! Luckily they have yet to attack my Hostas!

So what to do? Over the years fencing has been my only guaranteed, fail proof defense. I have tried the 'home remedies'; bar soap, blood meal, Milorganite (a commercial, stinky fertilizer), human hair, animal manure – but when they are hungry, as they are now, fencing is the only thing that works for me. There are some commercial products available, Deer Out, Plantskydd, even ultrasonic gadgets - I can't provide a recommendation here as I haven't tried them all, but with all things, buyer beware. Maybe I need to expand my options and give some of them a try.

For now, my grandson enjoys chasing them off, and I continue to do the same. The real work will come in the spring as I attempt to nurse them back to health and vigor and unfortunately will need to remove and replace a few. On the bright side, I will have some open spots to try something new and hope the new plants won't be so tasty for the four-legged pestilence!

Keith Eldred

The Emperor's has No Clothes

Dear Editor

With all the confusion going on, is it possible that these conditions are just repeating history. I my opinion, the answer is YES. Below are two old historical examples from years 1837 and 70.

"The Emperor has new clothes" story by Hans Christian Anderson in 1837 is a fictional tale of tailors using a magical fabric to create a new garment. This story points out how a case of "Knowledge falsification" on the part of tailors and the acceptance of a ruler to believe the tailors. The story also highlights the collective illusion of individuals conforming to the tailors false knowledge, social pressures in public. Another aspect of the story is the lack of the public to criticize the nakedness of a Ruler. In a word, it's the public's "intransigence": the refusal to accept reality.

The second example is from "The Gospel of Mark 7:14-23" written about the year 70. Mark documents his experiences of a parable of what enters a person is good for the person. In the United States, there are so many good things available to a person and opportunities for success like the First Amendment: "freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly". This example is just one of many good things a person is given to understand. As Mark explains: 20 "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. 21 For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, 22 adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

In my opinion, even deaf or blind people are experiencing the effects of knowledge falsification in the distortion and corruption in the public domain. The tailors using magical fabrics to weave Society deny what is true, giving information known to be false. Knowledge falsification is the deliberate misrepresentation of fact because of social pressures. The term Knowledge falsification was coined by Timur Kuran in his 1995 book Private Truths, Public Lies: The Social Consequences of Preference Falsification.

The two historical examples, in my opinion, show clearly that history is repeating itself with evil behavior coming out of people using the misrepresentation of facts and knowledge.

Other examples are listed below for your analysis, details not included here.

• Or try "good is bad and bad is good", Isaiah 5:20.

• Or Martin Luther King, Jr. 1958 "To ignore evil is to become an accomplice to it". He also said, "He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it".

• Or use "I have free will, anything goes, circa today.

• The Ten Commandments written between the 16th and 13th centuries BC.

The confusing mysteries continue to unfold showing evidence of what individuals and groups are purveyors of Truth Falsifications. Perhaps it's not a mystery at all because Tailors using magical fabrics are promoting nakedness. Perhaps it's the inability to decipher simple parables? Why is Truth for some never found? Are more options just giant heaps of clatter causing infinite confusion?

It's interesting that the majority of citizens completed their analysis last year and expressed their wishes at the ballet box. Enough, No more Magical Fabrications of Truth. Perhaps the Michigan Tailors will drop a stitch?

Philip Zamlynski

Do the Local Thing

Shopping in town helps local shops, cafes and restaurants, and the business owners who make them unique! When you shop local the whole community benefits.

Shop Local

The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES
4 P.M. Monday

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Letters to the editor

No employment; No taxes paid; No purchasing power; More unemployment

Dear Editor:

Is the "culling out of waste" that Mr. Trump ordered Mr. Musk and DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) to do in the Federal government really making America greater? For those who may not be aware, under the work of Elon Musk, a multi-billionaire in the computer world, and his young computer wizards, or hackers, there have been thousands of probationary workers fired from federal positions. In addition, valuable grant funding approved by Congressional Orders has stopped flowing to projects across the United States and the world.

There are many questions regarding the constitutionality of stopping the payment of funds approved by Congress and of the firings, but a great question may be: What do the firings of "probationary" employees who have been working at their designated duties do for the country, states and even Allegan County? The emotional stress is terrible, but will the release of employed workers match what is about to happen to the U.S. economy as a whole?

Under the Biden administration, the unemployment rate had been reduced significantly. By the time Mr. Trump and Mr. Musk complete their purge, thousands of people will suddenly be on the unemployment rolls. Mr. Trump and Mr. Musk might claim that the employees were offered "buy outs" until November, but they are still unemployed. Unemployed people are able to draw unemployment benefits from the government. How much will this drain the federal coffers?

When people are unemployed, they are no longer collecting wages equal to their living standards. They are also no longer paying income taxes or contributing to Social Security. No taxes = no income to the federal government. No Social Security deposits = the more at risk the Social Security line item is for paying Social Security benefits to those already retired and depending on this income.

Then there are payments – electricity, water, gas, housing, vehicles – for the basics. Forget about the clothes and "toys" that were purchased on loan. The "toys" may be the first to go back to banks. So, what happens to the mortgages and car loans? Even people who have learned to save for rainy days may not be able to stay above water.

Does the U.S. government and basically any business have a system for due process? Where is the evidence that any of those fired were performing their duties? If they were not performing their duties to the level of expectation, where is the evidence that they were given notice of their skills needing improvement and mentoring to make those improvements? Since when does a successful company email a person that they have been terminated without due process?

As an example, Mr. Trump has the Department of Education on the chopping block. Probationary employees were emailed their termination notices. Who are these "probationary" workers? Are these young, first-time employees fresh from school? Or are they seasoned teachers and administrators who bring experience to a position. Anyone with a student who receives special reading and/or mathematics services through Title I or Article III may see those services disappear or be reduced to bare bones. Then there are those students who are on Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 plans. Who will monitor that they are receiving the proper services and reimbursement for those services?

Will firing those in the U.S. AID offices truly solve the Federal mismanagement of funds? Or will it take the boy's finger out of the dike and start a flood of worldwide problems that will cost more money to fix? Will countries that have been working at establishing Democracies turn to Russia and China for assistance and end up turning their back on a democratic form of government. Do the current U.S. actions demonstrate that democracy does not work?

On the home front, immigration officers and judges have been "fired" which just increases the case load on those remaining employees to properly process immigrants and those seeking asylum. Or will the current leadership ignore the immigration system completely? The U.S. became great on the backs of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who worked and invented and moved the county to new heights over 250 plus years, because immigrants of all backgrounds and nationalities were working the land and building communities even before the Revolutionary War. Except for the indigenous people, everyone in the U.S. is an immigrant.

The Interior Department lost 2,300 employees under order from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Who will watch over the national parks, tribal affairs, endangered species and energy production and conservation on hundreds of thousands of acres of federally owned land? Is it not the probationary employees who have the energy to follow up on these issues?

The list could go on with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) losing over 1000 employees and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) dismissing almost 400 workers and the Office of Environmental Justice that addresses pollution in overburdened communities dismissing 160 workers, and the Department of Health and Human Services laying off about 5,200 probationary employees. Many of these new employees come with specialized skills.

To summarize, Allegan County has numerous projects like the Superfund Project to clean up the Kalamazoo River that are supplemented by federal funds. The Allegan County Health Department receives federal funding to meet the health needs of residents in an underserved area. The Allegan Game Forest receives assistance from federal funds. Every school across Allegan County receives federal funds for higher needs students. There is agriculture across Allegan County that will lose valuable support.

Unemployment roles will increase. The people who were paying tax dollars will now be draining the system. More people will be looking for assistance with food, shelter and clothing – the basics. The funds given to nonprofits and government entities that help meet those needs will disappear because those who were employed and paying taxes are now taking money.

The middle class workers that Mr. Trump promised to support and strengthen are losing their employment and thus their purchasing power… Loss of purchasing power means that businesses like the automobile industry, recreational vehicles, and even beauty supplies of all kinds will suffer financially. Laid off employees do not have the funds to purchase new items. This will put even more middle class workers/taxpayers who are manufacturing goods out of jobs and increase unemployment rates even more. Where will it end?

Firing without due process = higher unemployment = fewer tax payers and diminished purchasing power = more demand on the unemployment system = less demand for goods and services = companies reducing employees or closing their doors = higher unemployment… Where will it end?

Maybe, proper investigation into each federal department should have been done to identify exactly where the "waste" was occurring? To reduce costs, maybe buyouts should have been offered to the higher paid employee who are at retirement age so a probationary employee could work into the position at a lower wage? Maybe, a billionaire computer tycoon is not the proper person to make life better for the middle class? Maybe, these actions are increasing tension and faith in the democratic system? Maybe not only will the unemployment rate increase, but so will domestic violence and/or suicide rates? Did Mr. Trump and Mr. Musk even consider the ramifications on the middle class worker before gutting the federal government?

Gari Voss

Gari Voss is an educator with over 50 years of experience at multiple levels of teaching and administration including internationally. Her forte over time has been to work to implement what can be best for the population for whom she works – students, teachers, families. Being a first generation immigrant and a middle class worker who has been employed in different environments, she tries to discern how a decision will affect multiple layers of people. The current movements of DOGE and the encouragement of the country's leadership seem to be having a negative effect on all areas of our country and especially its middle class.

Six Principles of Stupidity and Other Issues

Dear Editor:

The last three weeks many changes have occurred in our government. Here is a sampling, but not all of the issues that the American public must deal with:

1. Offered illegal buyouts for government's 2.3 million workers

2. Dismissed 17 solicitor generals illegally who are watchdogs for government agencies. The law requires a 30 day waiting period and reasons for the firing. Eight are suing because their dismissals are illegal.

3. Made a non-elected person to oversee a drastic overall of the government, and in charge of dispersing funds. Elon Musk leaked classified information through the Doge (Department of Government Efficiency) I call this organization the Dogi (Department of Government Inefficiency).

4. Funding freeze on trillions of dollars sowing disfunction throughout the government.

5. Made Russ Vought to led the Office of Management and Budget. He was co-author of the 2025 Project something Trump claimed he knew nothing about--do you still believe that lie?

6. $489 million dollars worth of food spoiled as a result of freezing USAID funds. This was food to people going hungry in some of the poorest countries in the world. How shameful.

7. Trump Administration is refusing to obey legal court orders, and claim they will continue this practice. Vice President Vance and Speaker of the House, both lawyers, have repeated this like a parrot. It is plain and simple an attack on the judicial system.

8. President Trump on his Truth Social proclaimed that public school educators are ugly. Totally not presidential. It sounds like something you would hear on a middle school playground.

9. Claims the January 6th cop assaulters pardoned were the ones being assaulted. How utterly ridiculous as witnessed by millions of Americans on video of the January 6th insurrection.

10. President Trump says Palestinians would not be allowed back in Garza under his proposal. An attempt of Ethnic Cleansing which is considered a war crime.

11. Wants to get rid of FEMA and his Homeland Security Secretary agrees and also continues to deny climate change. I guess flooding, extreme wildfires, multiple hurricanes are not occurring. How pathetic these Trump responses are.

12. Eliminate cancer research for children

13. There are so many more that it boggles your mind. The very worst, in my opinion, are the unqualified people named to important government positions.

David Brooks, a conservative journalist wrote an article entitled the "Six Principles of Stupidity". He wrote this as a warning of the consequences of the Trump Administration.

Principle I: Ideology produces disagreements, but stupidity produces befuddlement. When stupidity is in control words become unscrewed with reality.

Principle II: Stupidity inheres in organizations not individuals. When one man has all the power and everyone else has to flatter his preconceptions, stupidity will surely result.

Principle III: People who behave stupidly are more dangerous than people who behave maliciously. Stupidity has all the answers.

Principle IV: People who behave stupidly are unaware of the stupidity of their actions. The Trump Administration is attempting to remove civil servants who have tremendous knowledge and expertise in their field and hire loyalist. This will fail as loyalist are unprepared to the reality of their jobs.

Principle V: Stupidity is nearly impossible to oppose. Reasonable arguments fall on deaf ears. Facts are deemed irrelevant and lies become relevant to the stupid person.

Principle VI: The opposite of stupidity is not intelligence, it's rationality. The populists are willing to believe anything--conspiracy theories, folk tales, and internet legends; that vaccines are harmful to children. They don't live within a structured body of thought but within a rave party chaos of prejudices.

America's leadership class has spent the last few generations excluding, ignoring, rejecting and insulting a large swarth of this country. It's worse when you seize power and start assaulting everyone around you. In fact, it's stupid.=-by--David Brooks

Mark Austin Hopkins

Musk, Trump ought to be fired for poor performance

Editor,

Donald Trump isn't a fan of Diversity, Equity or Inclusion.

He has said that prospective employees should be judged on "individual merit, aptitude, hard work and determination - curiously, all attributes missing in every one of his cabinet appointees.

In fact, all of them have only one attribute; undying, unrepentant, unexamined loyalty. And the ability to kiss his "ring" as long and as hard as he desires which, for him, can never be long enough or hard enough. Ask Mike Pence.

Of course the biggest unknown was Elon Musk.

Would we get the Elon Musk who brought Space X to life or the Elon Musk who turned Twitter into a walking zombie.

Now we have the answer: It's the Twitter Musk. Or "Chain Saw" Musk as he likes to refer to himself - initiating mass firings of government employees for "poor performance", many who have had no performance reviews at all.

But, what is "poor performance"?

Poor performance is the mass layoffs of Federal Aviation Administration employees without realizing he included air traffic controllers which necessitated recission of the order.

Poor performance is taking your chain saw to the Nuclear Energy Commission with realizing you sawed off the employees who safeguard our nuclear weapons.

Poor performance is decimating the Department of Agriculture without considering that you plowed under those employees tracking Bird Flu and those monitoring federal programs essential to our farmers.

Poor performance is the abrupt cancelling of hundreds of research grants in mid cycle thereby wasting all the money already spent and the knowledge attained.

Poor performance is not recognizing that when dealing with people surgeons use scalpels and not chain saws.

We already know who should be fired for "poor performance" and it's not the federal employee working to complete an assignment in an already understaffed office.

David Ohmart

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Obituaries

James "Jim" Edwin Frederick, 82

James "Jim" Edwin Frederick, 82, passed away peacefully on February 11, 2025, in Hastings, Michigan. He was born on December 29, 1942, in Plainwell, Michigan, the son of Arthur and Virginia (Lloyd) Frederick. Jim graduated from Allegan High School in 1961 and later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from Michigan State University in 1965. In 1985, he received a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma. Jim loved God, his family, and his country. He married the love of his life, Linda Lee (Arndt), on September 11, 1965. Together, they raised three children: Melissa (Sehbaz) Sabri, James Arthur (Lorinda) Frederick, and Amanda (Michael) Frechette. Jim lived a life marked by dedication and service. He proudly served in the US Air Force for almost 28 years, achieving the rank of Colonel before retiring in 1993. As an engineering officer, Colonel Frederick served in the 820th Civil Engineering Squadron (Red HORSE) at DaNang Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam; Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire; Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota; Kadena Air Base in Japan; multiple tours at Headquarters Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska; Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul Korea; KI Sawyer Air Force Base in Michigan where he served as the base civil engineer and commander of the 410th Civil Engineering Squadron; Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota where he served as the base civil engineer and commander of the 812th Civil Engineering Squadron; and March Air Force Base in California where he again served as base civil engineer and commander of the 22nd Civil Engineering Squadron; and Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul Korea supporting the Republic

James Edwin Frederick

of Korea / United States Combined Forces Command where he served as the lead American engineer. His decorations and awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor device and two oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars, the Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Longevity Service Award with five oak leaf clusters, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with bronze star, the Air Force Training Ribbon, the ROK Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. After retiring from the US Air Force, Jim served as Director of Buildings and Grounds and interim Vice President for Administrative Services at Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, Illinois, for 10 years before retiring again in 2004. Upon retirement, Jim and Linda moved to Hastings, Michigan, and joined Hope United Methodist Church, where he held several positions, including Interim Chairman of the Board, Lay Leader, and choir member. During his retirement, Jim found joy in golfing and fishing. A dedicated golfer, Jim participated in multiple leagues until this past summer. His unwavering passion for golf led him to seek medical advice when the sport suddenly became challenging. This visit resulted in an early diagnosis of glioblastoma brain cancer in 2023. Jim proudly represented Pease Air Force Base in two Strategic Air Command championship tournaments. Additionally, he triumphed at the Spring Open at Grand Forks Air Force Base and competed for the Okinawa Team at the Fil-Am Invitational held at the Baguio Country Club in the Philippines. Jim's family was his pride and joy, and he cherished every moment spent with them. He remarked just before his death that his grandchildren are "awesome." Jim is survived by his wife of 59 years, Linda Lee, and their children Melissa (Sehbaz) Sabri, James (Lorinda) Frederick, and Amanda (Michael) Frechette; 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren - Hannah (Daniel) Collins and their child Emmett, Elizabeth (Jimmy) Heystek, Caleb (Laura) Sabri and their children Hosea, Zipporah, and Shiloh, Sarah (Nate) Hoekman and their child Charlotte, Megan (Michael) Mortensen, Virginia Kate Frederick, James Brian Frederick, Lindsey Frechette, Gabriel Frechette, and Abigail Frechette; and his sister Linda Kay Frederick. Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur Frederick and Virginia (Lloyd) Frederick-May; his brother Brian Frederick; and his sister Marcia Frederick. Jim leaves behind a legacy of love and service. He is deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him and serving God and country with him. A celebration of Jim's life is being held at 11:00 AM on February 22, 2025, at Hope United Methodist Church in Hastings, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, please take a child golfing or fishing! The family will receive visitors from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. Services are provided by Girrbach Funeral Home, Hastings, Michigan. To leave online condolences, visit www.girrbachfuneralhome.net.

Linda L. Wilson (Meade), 79

Linda L. Wilson (Meade), 79, of Allegan, Michigan, passed away peacefully Monday, February 17, 2025, with family by her side. Born December 28, 1945, in Allegan, Michigan, she was the daughter of the late Lynn and Lillian (Waanders) Meade.

Linda was a lifetime resident of Allegan and a graduate of Allegan High School.

Linda was a loving mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and friend. To know Linda was to love her, and the memory of her will forever be in the hearts of her family and friends.

Linda is survived by her daughter, Debra (Peter) Olsen, son, Scott Belden; three grandchildren, Alyssia Fitzgerald, Ben Olsen and Greg Olsen; several great-grandchildren; her brother, Gary (Debra) Meade; brother-in-law, Jim Wheat and many special nieces and nephews. Linda was preceded in death by her parents and her sisters, Margaret (Tom) Gaby and Sandra Wheat.

Gerald Franklin Nye, 85

Gerald Franklin Nye, 85 yrs of age, passed through the gates of heaven on Feb 11, 2025 in Traverse city at Munson Medical Center.

Born in Douglas community hospital and raised on the farm in Ganges the son of Roy A. Nye and Erma C. (Hathaway) Nye.

He graduated from Fennville High School and went on to Western Michigan University to pursue his passion for music. After college he taught music at Northport Schools. He continued his musical passion by playing in the Northport Community band and the community band at his winter home in Fort Meade, Florida.

When his teaching career ended he pursued

Gerald Franklin Nye

another passion of his: collecting antiques. He owned and operated "The 5th Line Shop" in Northport. He was particularly fond of Fiesta Ware, Candle Wick glassware, and old clocks. When he wasn't collecting antiques he owned and operated the Willowbrook restaurant with friend and partner Charles Brown until Charlie's passing.

He was preceded in death by his parents Roy and Erma Nye, his older brother Donald A. Nye, and his loyal friend and partner Charles Brown. He is survived by sister in law Marilyn J Nye, nephews Kerry (Barbra) Nye, Steven (Pam) Nye, Roger (Caroline) Nye, niece Donna Nye, great nieces and nephews , and great grand nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place and the family will hold a private service at a later date.

Memorials can be made to the Northport Heritage Association or the Trinity Church of the United Church of Christ in Northport, Michigan.

Jean Eleanor Tagg, 97

Jean Eleanor Tagg, 97, of Allegan, MI passed away Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at Corewell Health Butterworth Hospital. Born April 15, 1927, in Trowbridge Township, she was the daughter of the late Harold David and Bertha Caroline (Hoskins) McKee and was the wife of the late Benjamin E. Tagg. Jean was a member of Christ Community Church. She had been the secretary to the principal of Allegan High School for twenty years prior to her retirement. In her spare time, Jean enjoyed crocheting, playing bingo and card games, reading

Jean Eleanor Tagg

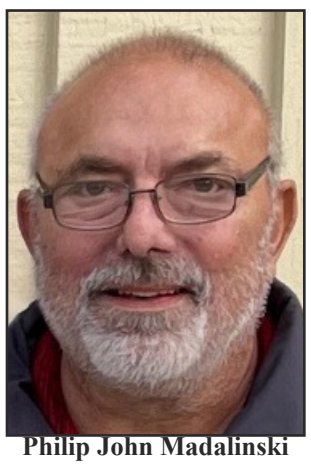
and going bowling.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, David (Heidi) Tagg, Steven (Carol) Tagg and Sherry (Ricky) Brown; sisters, Elaine Russell and Marjorie Simpson; ten grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

In accordance with her wishes, cremation has taken place. Jean's Memorial Service will be Tuesday, March 4th, at 2:00pm with an hour's visitation beforehand at Christ Community Church located at 3370 113th Avenue, Allegan, MI 49010. Following the service will be a procession to Oakwood Cemetery with a graveside committal.

Philip John Madalinski, 64

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Philip John Madalinski on February 20, 2025. Philip was born June 30, 1960, in Allegan, Michigan, to his late parents Phillip and Josephine (Oleksy) Madalinski. He would meet his bride and best friend Rhonda (Blozvich) Madalinski sharing over 41 years of faithful marriage together. Philip retired after 40 plus years as a Tool and Die Setter with ITM and Metal Flow out of Holland, Michigan. Hard work, timeliness, and determination drove Philip in any job or hobby. Spending time at any lake, pond or body of water fishing was his favorite pastime. Being on the water gave him peace and he would always bring fish home.


Philip John Madalinski

He also enjoyed being a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather to his wonderfully large family. Philip is missed and leaves behind a legacy of love and admiration for all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Philip is survived by his wife Rhonda (Blozvich) Madalinski; children Brian (Jamie) Bender and Michelle (Tim) Cooper; siblings Pat (Bob) Young, Sheila (Jeff) Clearwater, Edward (Jamie) Madalinski, James (Roseanne) Madalinski, Caroline and (Richard) Arnsman; grandchildren Shelby Grauman, Cole Bender, Kerah Bender, Briann Bender, Raydin Dean, Emilea Bender, Luke Cooper and Lily Cooper; great-grandchildren Caiden Mora, Venna, Mayvis, and Daphney.

He is preceded in death by his parents Phillip and Josephine (Oleksy) Madalinski; siblings Gerald Madalinski, Rose Kenniger, Arthur Kenniger, Jack and Jean Madalinski.

CITY OF ALLEGAN

PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Planning Commission of the City of Allegan, Michigan, shall hold a public hearing on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 231 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI to consider the following matters:

1. An application from Jason Bello, Interested Party, for a Special Use Permit to operate a Temporary Marijuana Event at 150 Douglas Street, also known as parcel numbers 03-51-100-001-00, 003-00, 004-00, 007-00, and -008-00, commonly known as the Allegan County Fairgrounds, subject to Section 1707.33 of the City of Allegan Zoning Ordinance.
2. Such other and further business as comes properly before the Planning Commission

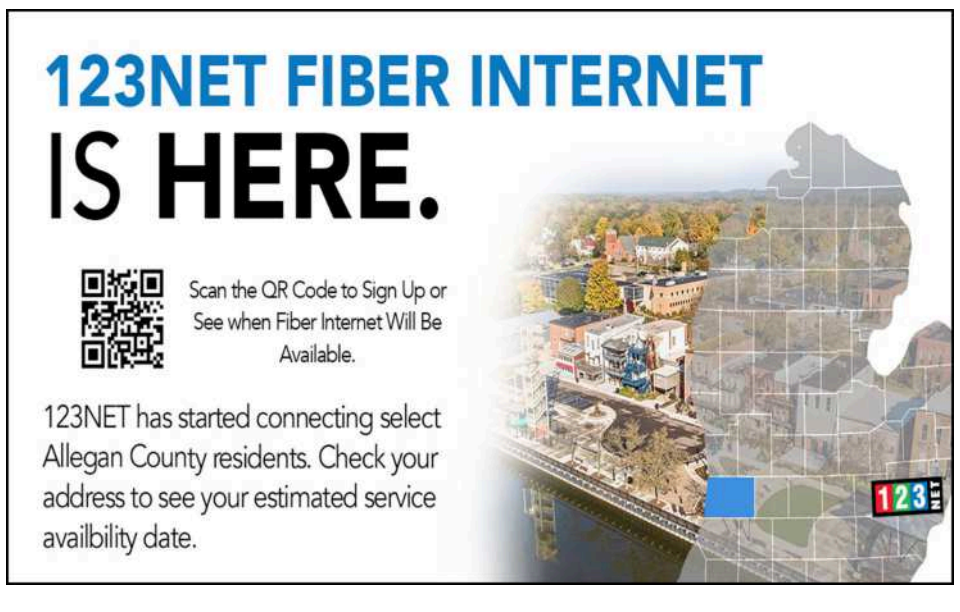
A copy of the applications and other related materials is available for viewing at City Hall during regular business hours. Questions and comments regarding this petition may be submitted prior to the Public Hearing to the Zoning Administrator at 1575 142nd Ave. Dorr, MI 49323 or calling 616-888-6156.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE the City of Allegan will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon five (5) days written notice to the City Clerk at 231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, MI, 49010 or by phone at 269-673-5511.

JOEL DYE, MANAGER
CITY OF ALLEGAN
269-673-5511

Johnsons expecting baby girl

Allegan natives, Sawyer Johnson and Andrea Johnson (Bazan), are thrilled to announce they are expecting a baby girl! The joyous gender reveal took place February 22, 2025, in their hometown. The news was revealed with a special display on the historic Second St. Iron Bridge in Allegan. This will be the couple's second child. Their son, Wesley, is eagerly awaiting the arrival of his little sister, who is due in June 2025.



Tribe's hotel to open March 7

According to the Gun Lake Tribe's casino website, its $300 million 252 room hotel is set to open March 7 with a grand opening event that will feature a drone light show, entertainment, and prize give aways. The website also reports the hotel is accepting reservations. Not opening until May is the Waywe' Oasis, the 32,000 square foot Atrium that captures the eye and contains a "luxury" pool and cabanas.

Commissioners authorize survey to determine priorities

By John Raffel
Correspondent

ALLEGAN — The 2024 Board of Commis-sioners (BOC) authorized the third every-other-year county resident survey to help determine development of plans and projects as the 2025 BOC starts making priority decisions.

The survey is divided into two sections. A randomly selected sample of 3,000 residents have been mailed postal cards with a "confidential" link. The second part is open to any county resident by going to www.allegancounty.org/communitysurvey. County leadership also recommends reading the 2025 community update. It can be reached by doing a search on the county website, it tracks some of those initiatives linked to previous survey results.

"For example, the birth of the broadband expansion currently underway was a desire reflected in earlier surveys as was the desire for additional investment in public safety at the sheriff's department and prosecuting attorney office," former commission chairman James Storey said. "Completing the survey requires up to 30 minutes. The county uses a national survey instrument so most questions are designed to benchmark the county against other local governmental units across the nation.

"A few questions towards the end were written and placed by a local committee consisting of county administration, non-profits, and the county mental health agency. To be considered in the tabulation of returns, questionnaires must be submitted by late March."

Like us on facebook

Allegan woman sentenced for bad check

An Allegan woman was sentenced to seven days in jail and 24 months probation for passing checks with non-sufficient funds to Menards last summer.

Jane Ann Beller, 57, had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of presenting checks with non-sufficient funds, $500 or more, and one count of presenting three checks with non-sufficient funds in 10 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF OTSEGO
BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of Otsego Board of Review will meet Tuesday, March 11, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, March 12, 2025 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Otsego City Hall, 117 East Orleans Street, Otsego, Michigan. The Board will also meet Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. for organizational purposes only. Written protests must be received before 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025. If you wish to meet in person, please call (269) 692-3391 to schedule an appointment. Protest at the Board of Review is necessary to protect your right to further appeals to the Michigan Tax Tribunal for valuation and exemption appeals and/or the State Tax Commission for classification appeals. Properties classified Commercial Real, Industrial Real or Developmental Real may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31, 2025. Commercial Personal, Industrial Personal, or Utility Personal Property may be appealed to the regular March Board of Review or to the Michigan Tax Tribunal prior to May 31, 2025, if a personal property statement was filed with the local unit prior to the commencement of the Board of Review as provided by MCL 211.19.

Poverty Tax Exemption Applications are also available to those meeting Federal Poverty Guidelines.

The tentative Allegan County Equalization ratios and estimated multipliers for each class of real and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

CLASSIFICATION	RATIO	MULTIPLIER	PERCENTAGE CHANGE
Commercial	48.47%	1.0316	3.16%
Industrial	50.38%	0.9925	-0.75%
Residential	43.64%	1.1457	14.57%
Personal	50.00%	1.0000	0.00%

The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon a five day notice.

Angela M. Cronen
City Clerk

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Hopkins Township
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 128 S Franklin St, Hopkins, MI 49328 to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025:
1:00pm Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025:
2:00pm to 5:00pm & 6:00pm to 9:00pm
Tuesday, March 11, 2025:
9:00am to Noon & 1:00pm to 4:00pm

And on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

Letter appeals will be accepted in lieu of appearance and must be received no later than 5:00pm March 11, 2025. Mailing address is PO Box 217, Hopkins, MI 49328.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	40.53%	1.23365
Commercial	47.49%	1.05285
Industrial	47.40%	1.05485
Residential	45.80%	1.09170
Developmental	48.20%	1.03734
Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Cade Bolser, Hopkins Township Supervisor
Grey Castello, Hopkins Township Assessor

WAYLAND TOWNSHIP
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 1060 129th Ave., Shelbyville, MI 49344 to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025: 10:30 am Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025: 2:00 pm 5:00pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Tuesday, March 11, 2025: 9:00 am to Noon
Thursday, March 13, 2025: 9:00 am to Noon

And on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

Letter appeals will be accepted in lieu of appearance and must be received no later than 5:00 pm March 11, 2025. Mailing address is PO Box 1, Bradley, MI 49311.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	42.21%	1.1845
Commercial	44.79%	1.1163
Industrial	48.48%	1.0314
Residential	47.96%	1.0425
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Roger VanVolkinburg, Supervisor Wayland Twp
Heather Mitchell, Assessor Wayland Township

Wayland Township Board Meetings are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex or disability.

NOTICE
Valley Township
2025 Board of Review

The Valley Township Board of Review will be held at the Valley Township Hall, 2054 N. M-40, Allegan, MI 49010, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 4,
11 AM – Organizational Meeting only
Tuesday, March 11,
9 AM to 12 PM and 1 PM to 4 PM – Appeal Hearing
Friday, March 14,
1 PM to 4 PM and 6 PM to 9 PM – Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. Letters are accepted as appeal, provided they are received prior to the final appeal hearing. Send letter to the Valley Township Board of Review, 2054 N. M-40, Allegan, MI 49010.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 as provided by the Allegan County Equalization Department are as follows:

Agricultural	44.41%	1.12587
Commercial	51.49%	0.97106
Industrial	49.16%	1.00000
Residential	45.93%	1.08861
Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000

State Equalized Value (SEV) represents 50% of the True Cash Value of the property. Taxable Value (TV) is the lower of the SEV or the 2024 TV multiplied by the Inflation Rate Multiplier (1.031). Transfers of ownership in 2024 will cause the cap in taxable value to be removed, making the taxable value equal to the SEV for 2025.

Mike Krcatovich
Valley Township Supervisor

Krista Simmons
Valley Township Assessor

Wayland Union's Dancing with Star takes center stage

By Gari Voss

The performing arts can add special twists and involve surprising talent. The Wildcat Dance Theatre students at Wayland Union High School under the direction of Leigh Ann Hill decided to host a fundraiser by creating an evening of Dancing with the Star Staff. The "stars" that the students discovered were staff working right in the school district. Once Mrs. Hill shouted out a request for volunteers, and after a bit of cajoling, the lineup of competitors and judges was filled.

Each star-studded staff member was paired with a student, or students. Rehearsals began. Dances were practiced and practiced and …. Polished. On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 7pm in the Wayland Union Fine Arts Center, the Stars Staff and their partners will take the stage before a live theater audience and a panel of judges.

To make it a proper fundraiser, each Staff Star will have a container with their name. The audience will be given opportunities to put cash in the container of their favorite dancer(s). Each dollar inserted will count as a vote. And since it is a fundraiser, the dance students request that the audience bring lots of dollars to vote.

While the audience votes are being counted, the illustrious panel of judges will be organizing and tabulating their assessment cards. The results of the two groups will be combined, and the winner will be announced.

The Staff Stars & Dancers

The Staff Stars are volunteers from across the school district. Several stepped forward as soon as Leigh Ann Hill, WUHS dance instructor, asked for volunteers. Several required a little encouragement through one-on-one invitations from students to share their talent.

Rochelle Diaz, the high school Spanish teacher, will step onto the stage with 9th grader Bella DeLaney and 12th grader Sadie Holcomb. Ms. Diaz brings a background in social dance including Salsa and Latin, so she may have a bit of an advantage.

Paul Goodwin, the high school football coach and substitute teacher, has received training from seniors Kynlee Boomsma and Hannah Wilson. All of that tiptoeing through tires on the practice field may come in handy when mastering intricate dance patterns.

Karyll Russell, high school assistant principal, comes with a strong background in counseling and grew up taking ballet and contemporary dance. Students Kadence DuShane, 10th grade, and Makayla Featherly, 9th grade, knew that roping in the new administrator would bring the first-year enthusiasm to the stage.

Michael Doupe, high school English teacher, has been given a bit of an advantage with three 10th graders, Izzy Cassini, Maddie Davenport and Chanissara Jungthawornanan, to guide him through the process. The question comes whether or not he will choose one of his infamous English T-shirts to complement his dance wardrobe.

Kacie Bultje represents Pine Street Elementary School. With a following from the Media Center and PTO, Ms. Bultje with assistance from 11th grader Alaina Lancaster and 12th grader Lily Hibma may have the numbers to put her high in the vote count.

School Resource Officer **Jon Schafer** expands his response time skills by agreeing to perform with Senior Reese Cassini. Officer Schafer has been touted for his quick response to emergencies around the school. Now, he gets to demonstrate his talents for mastering delicate dance moves.

Jamie Berens, clerical aide, ensured that Dorr Elementary would not be left off the stage. With the assistance of 9th grader Kaylee Nylaan and 10th grader Taryn Shook, Ms. Berens will be able to strut her stuff, and with her background at ULTA, she will definitely have the right look. If all her Dorr Facebook friends attend the competition, Ms. Berens may be an easy shoe in.

The Judges

When seeking judges for the Dancing with the Staff Stars competition, Hill put out a volunteer request then made her selection. The judges for the evening stack up as thus: Elizabeth Stein, the Varsity Dance Team coach, leads the quartet. Assistant Superintendent Theresa Fulk will ensure that all rules are creatively followed to a T. To represent the elementary grades, Pine Street 4th grade teacher, a former dancer and dance coach, Elizabeth Santana stepped forward. Rounding out the foursome is Cierra Onken, a special education teacher from Dorr Elementary School.

The Program

Wildcat Dance Theatre Artistic Director Leigh Ann Hill is in her 19th year at Wayland Union, and has been a dance, physical education, and overall health education teacher.

"We are one of a very few schools in Michigan that offers Dance as an elective PE and Performing Arts credit. Our fundraising event is to promote our high school dance program called 'Wildcat Dance Theatre.' I want to make sure that funds are there for our students to have opportunities outside the classroom" explained Hill.

"Competing in this event builds leadership, problem solving, confidence, empathy and communication skills. Through dance and this experience, my students have invaluable experience for the rest of their life. Dancers have now completed the journey of taking someone else through their own experiences. They started at nothing, looked for challenges keeping in mind limitations, got started, learned more about themselves and each other, and continued to build until it was finally done," reflected Hill. "The journey not only involves the dance but it involves the person. Now, they get to share the fruits of their accomplishments with our community. I felt this would be a great activity for the Wayland community to have a night of fun keeping the goal in mind of raising money for high school students to go to festivals, workshops and see performances. These are things that we do not have extra funds to do."

The Wildcat Dance Theatre students prepare three productions each year to culminate the fall, winter and spring trimesters. On Thursday, February 20th, the group performed their Winter Trimester dances for the community. That meant the dancers were preparing their star staff while rehearsing other dances for the trimester performance.

Three of those dances will be enjoyed by the Dancing with the Staff Stars audience. One will introduce the evening's festivities, and a couple will be shared as the votes are counted.

The big event is Wednesday, February 26th at 7:00 pm in the Wayland Union Fine Arts Center, 870 E. Superior Street, Wayland, MI. There is a $6 entrance fee for spectators. Tickets can be purchased online at https://wufactickets.ludus.com/index.php and at the door.

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Public Notice of Intent to Dispose of Firearms

The following is a list of firearms in evidence at the Sheriff's Office. If no valid ownership claim is received within thirty (30) days of the date of public notice, the firearms listed will be disposed of. The firearms are not for sale.

If you have a valid claim to any of these firearms, and are authorized to possess firearms, contact Lt. Mike Brown to get the gun returned to you.

Contact:
Lt. Mike Brown, Allegan Co Sheriff's Office
640 River St, Allegan, MI 49010
Ph# 269-673-0500 ext 4592, or mbrown@allegancounty.org

Complaint#	Make	Model	Caliber	Serial#
21014-20	Ruger	Mod Security-six revolver	.357	150-87997
21014-20	Marlin	Mod 60 rifle	.22lr	14408542
21014-20	Remington	Mod 870 Express	12ga	B572031M
21014-20	CVA	Mod Optima rifle	.50 cal	none
21014-20	Winchester	Mod 94 AE rifle	30-30	5289209
976-14	Dan Wesson	Mod .357 revolver	.357	129266
18093-15	Glock	Mod G22 pistol	.40	VNA124
12166-09	Stevens	Mod 94 shotgun	20ga	P213544
2224-13	CAI	Romanian AK rifle	7.62x39	S-BC2729
973-11	Mossberg	Mod pump shotgun	12ga	R301324
2727-14	Ithaca	Mod 37 shotgun	12ga	356359
2947-13	CVA	Mod Wolf Muzzleloader	50cal	61-13-050850-07
7995-10	Mossberg	Mod Pump shotgun	12ga	R854863
7995-10	Marlin	Mod 882 rifle	.22wmr	06488396
138-11	Remington	Mod 597 rifle	.22lr	A2747511
16900-10	Remington	Mod 572 rifle	.22lr	none(old)
16900-10	Remington	Mod 11-48 shotgun	20ga	82591
3410-12	Mossberg	Mod Slugster shotgun	12ga	J717355
8578-17	Beretta	Mod 1934 pistol	9mm	626992
18938-23	Bersa	Mod Thunder380 pistol	.380	800205
12593-13	Fabrinor Victoria	Mod Firestorm pistol	.45	71-04-08224-02
12593-13	Sundance Industries	Mod A-25 pistol	.25	062808
18539-15	Ruger	Mod SR9 pistol	9mm	335-25094
8057-15	Ruger	Mod Super Blackhawk revolver	.44mag	85-47317
7995-10	Ruger	Mod Mini-14 rifle	.223	185-60702
16417-10	Remington	Mod 870 Express shotgun	12ga	B978635M
15747-10	Marlin	Mod 336SC rifle	35rem	H5171
14532-15	S&W	Mod M&P 9 pistol	9mm	HKK0099
10231-15	Glock	Mod G19 pistol	9mm	MNP619
5804-16	Ruger	Mod LC9s pistol	9mm	328-70876
8461-16	Hi-Point	Mod C9 pistol	9mm	P1869135
16976-11	Savage	Mod 110 rifle	30-06	B600501
18901-17	Knight	Mod Blackpowder rifle	.50cal	413881
5875-14	Mossberg	Mod 835 shotgun	12ga	UM161265

Complaint#	Make	Model	Caliber	Serial#
11572-15	Hi-Point	Mod C9 pistol	9mm	P1885974
20887-17	Taurus	Mod PT111 pistol	9mm	TK043814
6523-17	H&R	Mod 949 revolver	.22lr	AN111535
18-17	S&W	Mod M&P 9 Shield	9mm	HMX1062
4860-14	Taurus	Mod PT24/7 G2 pistol	.40	SER30059
7995-10	AMT	Mod 1911 Hardballer pistol	.45acp	A21224
13764-17	S&W	Mod M&P Bodyguard 380 pistol	.380	KEF2326
1684-13	RG	Mod RG 23 revolver	.22lr	T606714
5892-18	S&W	Mod 442 revolver	.38	CMN3696
16163-12	Taurus	Mod PT-22 pistol	.22lr	Y149215
18066-17	Glock	Mod G23 pistol	.40cal	PXF005
12277-16	Ruger	Mod 22 Charger pistol	.22lr	490-71648
13669-12	Remington	Mod R15VTR rifle	.223	RA034292
13669-12	Browning	Mod A-bolt rifle	.300win	41254NZ717
13669-12	Ruger	Mod LCR revolver	.22lr	548-14264
12039-12	Mossberg	Mod 500 Slugster shotgun	12ga	L050916
16056-19	Remington	Mod 870 Magnum shotgun	12ga	W610091M
13669-12	Mossberg	Mod 930 Shotgun	12ga	AF018142
14475-11	Stevens	Mod single shot shotgun	12ga	none
13669-12	Mossberg	Mod 500 shotgun	20ga	R751168
16588-16	Mossberg	Mod 500 shotgun	12ga	G530471
10459-16	New England	Mod Pardner shotgun	12ga	HW505234
13669-12	H&R	Mod Ultraslug shotgun	20ga	CAC296366
14394-12	IJA	Mod Target revolver	.22lr	N21881
13669-12	Remington	Mod 700 ML rifle	.50cal	ML104817
13669-12	New England	Mod Pardner shotgun	20ga	NR241125
327-13	Savage	Mod 11D rifle	30-06	F227865
15833-13	Mossberg	Mod 835 shotgun	12ga	UM51143
13167-13	Mossberg	Mod 835 shotgun	12ga	UM124528
20578-20	Mossberg	Mod 500A shotgun	12ga	R043927
6359-11	Marlin	Mod 60 Rifle	.22lr	17351854

Disability Inclusion Week at Wayland Union

During the week of February 24, 2025, the Wayland Union Schools will celebrate Disability Inclusion Week. Throughout the week, the incredible contributions of individuals with disabilities will be recognized. The overall goal is to highlight the importance of building communities that embrace diversity and inclusion.

Elizabeth Stein, Communications Specialist and McKinney Vento Liaison, stressed, "The week's calendar of events will highlight classroom activities by hosting a spirit week and sharing facts about Special Education services aimed at raising awareness, fostering empathy, and promoting understanding. From inspiring stories of perseverance to educational workshops, we invite everyone—students, staff, families, and community partners—to join us in celebrating differences and championing inclusion."

Inclusive Schools Week began in 2001 and is usually observed in December. The theme during the current school year is "Every Voice Matters". Throughout the week, school communities focus on ensuring that a supportive and quality education is provided to every student, especially those who are marginalized because of a disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, or other anomaly.

As a shout out, Stein encourages all, "Let's work together to ensure that every voice is heard and that every student feels valued. Happy Disability Inclusion Week!"

Inclusion Week Activities in the Wayland Schools:

Monday: Red-Spect Day – wear red to show respect for those with different abilities.

Tuesday: Be Comfy, Be You – wear comfy clothes or pajamas to show acceptance of others.

Wednesday: Hats Off for Inclusion – wear hats to show acceptance of all abilities.

Thursday: Team Inclusion – wear something that shows your favorite to demonstrate team effort.

Friday: We Are All Wildcats – wear Wayland gear or green to show that Wayland is a unified community.

A goal for the week is to share facts about inclusion in education. To begin the week, the team shared the following demonstrating a story of resilience, innovation, and progress. From early challenges and barriers to groundbreaking legislation, the approach to educating every student has evolved tremendously.

- Early Challenges: Hisorically, children with disabilities were often overlooked or excluded from traditional classrooms.
- Breaking Barriers: The passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 marked a turning point by prohibiting discrimination against individuals with disabilities in federally funded programs.
- A New Era with IDEA: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), originally enacted in 1990, guaranteed a free and appropriate public education for every child, ensuring that special education services are tailored to each student's unique needs.
- Moving Towards Inclusion: Today, schools emphasize inclusive education, celebrating diverse learning styles and abilities, and fostering environments where every student can thrive.

Wayland's leadership feels that Wayland Union Schools is part of a legacy that continues to evolve, ensuring that every learner is given the opportunity to shine. The staff, students and community want to celebrate how far they have come and look forward to a future where education truly means inclusion for all! For daily information, check at https://www.facebook.com/WaylandUnionSchools.

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Plainwell robotics team makes it to semis at VEX State

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FLINT—Some of the state's best high school VEX robotics teams converged on Kettering University on Friday, Feb. 21, and Saturday, Feb. 22, for the VEX Robotics Michigan High School State Championship.

Four of the 80 teams on hand were part of the Plainwell Robotics Club, with Team Siege having the standout performance.

In addition to reaching the tournament semifinals along with its alliance partner, Siege received the Build Award, thereby earning an invitation to attend the VEX World Championship in Dallas in May.

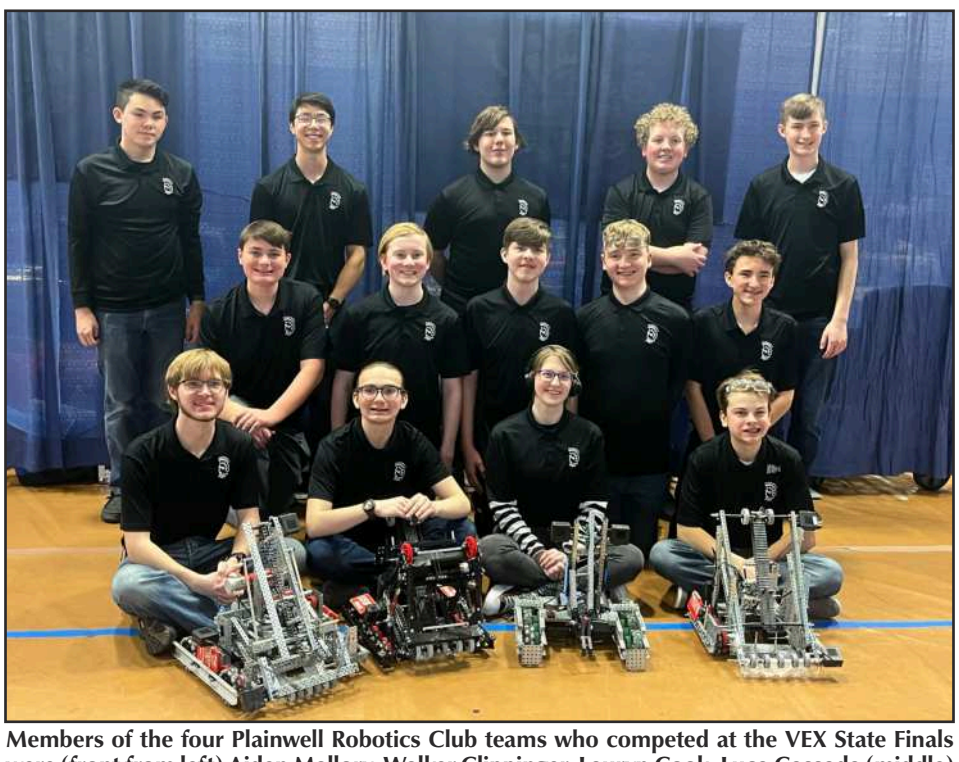
The Build Award "recognizes a well-constructed robot that is built with a high degree of attention to detail in order to hold up to the rigors of competition," according to Plainwell Robotics Club communications coordinator Lisa Cook.

"Team Siege was the big winner for us," Cook said.

In the tournament, the 80 participating teams were divided into two 40-team divisions.

Siege—comprised of team members Walker Clippinger, Own Ferris and Isaiah Looney-McPhillips and coached by Matt Clippinger and Jason Ferris—was placed in the Blue Division and finished the qualifying rounds in fourth place.

For the finals rounds, Siege selected RoboDawgs: Counter Strike from Grandville to be their alliance partner and made it to the Divisional Finals before bowing out.



Members of the four Plainwell Robotics Club teams who competed at the VEX State Finals were (front from left) Aiden Mallory, Walker Clippinger, Lauryn Cook, Luca Cassada (middle) Bryce Stoeffler, Owen Ferris, JD Fritz, Ayden Young, Lucas Stoll, (back) Clay Ranking, Hiro Nguyen, Isaiah Looney-McPhillips, Parker Montange and Blaine Rensi. (Photo provided)

The three other teams representing the Plainwell Robotics Club were Ring Kong, Up Dawg and Nuclear Reactors. Those teams performed as follows:

* Ring Kong finished in 21st placed in the Blue Division after the qualifiers, captained the 12th-place alliance and lost in the divisional final round. Team members are Luca Cassada, Parker Montange, Blaine Rensi and Lucas Stoll, with Sarah Orr and Curtis Orr serving as coaches.

* Up Dawg finished in 30th place in the Gold Division after the qualifiers. Captaining the fourth-place alliance, Up Dawg lost in the divisional final round.

Team members are Aiden Mallory, Hiro Nguyen, Clay Rankin, and Bryce Stoeffler. The team is coached by Jim Mallory.

* Nuclear Reactors finished in 35h place in the Gold Division after the qualifiers. Team members are Lauryn Cook, Jack Fritz, and Ayden Young, with Shannon Fritz coaching the team.

"Congratulations to all four teams," Cook said.

OPS seeks nominations for Outstanding Alumnus Award

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Each year, Otsego Public Schools honors one of its past graduates with the Outstanding Alumnus Award at the annual Otsego High School Honors Night in April.

The district is seeking nominations for this year's recipient.

To be eligible for nomination, an individual must have graduated from Otsego High School prior to 2015 and "distinguished themselves in their chosen field or through their outstanding community service efforts."

Nominations are due by Wednesday, March 5, with OHS assistant principal Tina Cathcart organizing the search.

To nominate someone for consideration, there are two steps:

1. Fill out and submit the form that can be found at https://rb.gy/mtw8qz

2. Email the nominee's resume/vitae along with additional information on their career accomplishments, volunteer work or exceptional experiences to Cathcart at tcathcart@otsegops.org.

In addition to receiving the Distinguished Alumnus Award, the individual selected will also be inducted into the Otsego High School Hall of Fame.

Nominees not selected this year will stay on file for future consideration.

Todd Starr, a 1989 OHS graduate, was last year's honoree.

Unified Champions basketball teams face off on the court

The Unified Champions basketball teams from Otsego Middle School and Plainwell Middle School squared off on Wednesday, Feb. 19, for a fun, hard-fought game.

The Bulldogs won the game by a close 24-21 margin, but the score was secondary to the enjoyment experienced by all of the participants. (Photos provided)

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Clippers place runner-up at D4 Team State Finals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

KALAMAZOO—It was a special weekend for Martin wrestling coach Logan Curry and his team.

"It's hard to put into words what these past two days have meant to me and the program," said Curry, who led the Clippers all the way to the Division 4 Team State Finals at Wings Event Center before suffering a 45-35 loss to Hudson on Saturday, Feb. 22.

"The coaches, wrestlers and fans have poured everything they have into this team and for us to reach the finals and finish state runner-up means the world to us. This weekend is a weekend we won't ever forget."

Martin, seeded third, reached the finals by outlasting No. 2 St. Louis 30-25 in a semifinal match earlier in the day. The Clippers cruised to a 47-28 win over No. 6 Union City in the quarterfinals the previous day.

"I was overjoyed with how we wrestled all weekend," Curry said. "Going into the weekend, we knew we had the talent and leadership to make a deep run. We also knew that we were going to be tested and would have to wrestle three great teams if we wanted to win a state title.

"The culmination of how we wrestled, the energy from our fans and the exciting duals made this an unforgettable experience for our team."

Martin still had a chance at the state championship with two weight classes remaining in the finals against top-ranked Hudson. The Clippers trailed 35-25, meaning they needed a pair of pins or a pin and a tech fall for the win.

As it turned out, however, Hudson won both of those matches—a pin at 285 pounds and a major decision at 106. But that did nothing to diminish Curry's sense of pride for his team's performance.

"I'm very proud of how our guys competed with Hudson," he said. "Through eight matches, we were tied 21-21. And going into the last two weight classes, we still had a shot to pull off the upset. Not many schools have been able to compete with (Hudson) like we did today."

Martin took a quick 12-0 lead over Hudson by virtue of pins from Urijah Joostberns at 113 and Logan Gilbert at 120. But Hudson won the next four weight classes to go up 21-12.

A 16-2 major decision from Haylen Buell at 150 and a 19-4 tech fall from Jack Bagwell at 157 knotted the score at 21-21.

The rest of the match belonged to Hudson, however, as the Tigers won five of the final six match. The lone win by Martin came in the form of a 16-4 major decision ty Sam Bleeker at 215.

In the semifinals, Martin and St. Louis traded wins for the first six matches, including a 9-6 decision by Gilbert at 120 over a defending state champion.

Still, St. Louis held a 16-9 lead before middleweights Jayce Ritchie (144), Seth Toris (150), Buell (167) and Bagwell (165) strung together four straight wins to put the Clippers up 20-16.

St. Louis won three of the next four weight classes, taking a 25-24 lead with one weight class remaining.

And freshman Jacinto Lopez came through in a big way for the Clippers, picking up the pin to send his team to the state finals.

"This was a big win for our team," Curry said. "We lost to them a year ago at Team State, so to come out and get revenge for last year was an exciting moment for our group."

The quarterfinal match with Union City was never in any real question, as Martin earned pins in the first four weight classes: Jakub Tomyslak at 175, Malcolm Smith at 190, Bleeker at 215 and Cooper Dinse at 285.

"We knew that to beat Union City, we needed to get bonus points from 175 through heavyweight," Curry said. "Coincidentally, we started at 175, which was a great weight class for us to start at to reel off some wins and get the crowd behind us.

"We ended up getting pins at all those weights, which gave us a ton of momentum to carry throughout the rest of that dual."

Joostberns (113) and Buell (150) also earned pins. Gilbert (18-11 decision at 120), Cole Reitz (11-8 decision at 132) and Ritchie (17-1 tech fall at 144) accounted for Martin's other victories.

Martin head coach Logan Curry (left) and assistant coach Pete Boyd (right) react during quarterfinal matches. (Photos by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martin's Haylen Buell (right) sizes up his quarterfinal opponent from Union City. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Jayce Ritchie (right) competes in a quarterfinal match for Martin. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Allegan wins state quarterfinal match for first time in 11 years

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

KALAMAZOO—When 2017 Allegan High School graduate Chase Beard took over as head coach of the boys wrestling team at his alma mater prior to the 2021-22 season, the program wasn't in the best shape.

Unable to fill out their lineup, the Tigers rarely won matches.

Those struggles are now but a distant memory, however, as Allegan earned a 35-24 win over Hart in a Division 3 state quarterfinal on Friday, Feb. 21.

It was the first time Allegan had claimed a quarterfinal final victory since 2014, which happened to be Beard's freshman year with the team.

And while the Tigers dropped a 72-0 decision to eventual state champ Dundee in the semifinals the following day, Beard had nothing but praise for his athletes and their accomplishments this season.

"It means so much to me to be able to help turn the program around so quickly," Beard said. "In my first season four years ago, we were at rock bottom with only half a team and rarely winning matches. Now, the team went 31-3 for the season and ended our dual season in the state semifinals.

"Many of the wrestlers, especially the seniors who were with me for my first year, have a great story to tell of being part of the beginning of Allegan's new program. They were part of Allegan's rock-bottom team and the semifinalist team of 2025."

In the quarterfinal match with Hart, Allegan trailed 24-19 with four weight classes remaining before Luke Wedge earned a 15-7 decision at 138 pounds and Treydan Vanderkooi picked up a pin at 144. That put the Tigers up 28-24 with just two weight classes left to be decided.

A 10-3 decision by Landon Fance-Coulson upped Allegan's lead to 31-24, thereby guaranteeing the win for the Tigers.

"After (Wedge) won that 138-pound match, I knew that the dual was over, even with three weight classes remaining," Beard said.

And while the outcome of the match was already decided, Aiden Pearce put an exclamation mark on the victory with an 11-1 major decision at 157. It was the 100th win of Pearce's career.

Also winning matches for Allegan against Hart were Ryan Sparks (14-6 major decision at 165), Rysten Williams (pin at 175), Sylar Bush (14-7 decision at 215), Jacob Collier (10-7 decision at 113) and Hudson Vanderkooi (15-9 decision at 126).

"There were many key matches in that dual," Beard said. "Those wrestlers all executed their jobs perfectly. There were some tough matchups down low, and I knew we had to win one to two of those key matches."

The semifinal showdown with top-ranked Dundee was a tough one for Allegan, with the Tigers dropping six matches via pin and five more by way of tech fall.

Not that losing to Dundee was anything for the Tigers to hand their heads about.

In its quarterfinal, semifinal and final matches, Dundee won by a combined total of 221-6.

"Dundee has a great program," Beard said. "But we were not discouraged to go against Dundee. Rather, it was the opposite. We went out there with smiles, proud to see what we were up against as we strive to become a great team ourselves."

Sullivan Morgan had the closest match against Dundee, dropping a 7-3 decision at 106 pounds. Treydan Vanderkooi also lost by decision, falling by an 8-1 score at 144.

And while the team portion of the season is over, seven Tigers are slated to participate in the individual state finals beginning Friday, Feb. 21. They are Collier, Morgan, Fance-Coulson, Sparks, Williams, Wedge and Treydan Vander Kooi.

Members of the Allegan wrestling team celebrate after winning their Division 3 quarterfinal against Hart. (Photo provided)

Short-handed Bulldogs fall to Parchment

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—It would be an understatement to say the Otsego boys basketball team was less than full strength when it hosted Parchment for a Division 2 district opener on Monday, Feb. 24.

"This past week was a tough one," Otsego coach Matt Dennis said. "On Friday night, we had four players out sick and brought up three JV players to fill the roster.

"The weekend wasn't enough to get us back to full strength—senior Matt Long tried to play but was too sick, while Wyatt Dennis, Owen Santman, and Andrew Ballman were at about 60 percent. They all gave it their best effort, and I'm grateful for that."

The result was a 60-41 season-ending loss for the Bulldogs, bringing their final record to 5-16.

Otsego trailed 19-4 after the first quarter and never could dig out of that early hole.

Freshman Max Mercer—one of three players called up from the JV team to fill out the roster—led the Bulldog with 11 points. Fellow freshmen Wyatt Dennis and Leeland Longcore added 10 points and nine points, respectively.

"Of our 41 points, 32 came from freshmen and sophomores, giving me a glimpse of Otsego basketball's future," Matt Dennis said.

And while the season didn't go he had hoped, Matt Dennis had nothing by praise for his team's five seniors: Louis DiGrandi, Scottie Durr, Matt Long, Andrew Ballman, and exchange student Eric Klein were great to coach and be around.

"I appreciate our seniors' hard work," Matt Dennis said. "It was an up-and-down season with injuries and illness constantly forcing adjustments. While we didn't win as much as we wanted, this group of seniors was great to coach and be around."

Leeland Longcore (right) goes up for a basket in Otsego's game with Parchment. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Trojans cruise past Allegan in district play

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—Be aggressive.

That's the message Plainwell boys basketball coach Larry Ash had for senior forward Chib Amaezechi prior to the Trojans Division 2 district opener against Allegan on Monday, Feb. 24.

Apparently, the message got through.

Amaezechi scored nine points in each of the first two quarters to help stake Plainwell to a 42-25 halftime lead on the way to the 68-44 victory.

"Chib can be really effective for us as a decoy, which allows John (Amaezechi) and Chad (Winenger) to get going," Ash said. "But sometimes Chib can be a little too unselfish and we need him to go in there and try to score.

"That's what we needed from him tonight and that's what I told him to do. He did a great job doing it."

Chib Amaezechi added seven points in the third quarter to give him 25 for the game. Given the size of Plainwell's lead—it was up to 64-37 at the end of the third stanza—he sat out the final minutes of the third quarter and the fourth quarter.

Winenger and John Amaezechi added 13 and 12 points for Plainwell, which improved to 15-6.

The Trojans were slated to face South Haven in a district semifinal on Wednesday, Feb. 26, with the winner of that game taking on either Parchment or Paw Paw in the district finals. The title game is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28, at Otsego.

For Allegan, Quentin Edwards, Jr., scored a team-best 17 points. Antoineio Taylor added eight points, followed by Brandyn Kosiorowski with seven and LJ Dial with six.

Plainwell's lead stood at 64-37 entering the fourth quarter.

Plainwell's Gibson Youngs (21) drives to the basket against Allegan's Jesse Smith. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Allegan girls pick up 'huge' win over South Haven

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

Huge.

No. Check that. Huge, huge.

That's how Allegan girls basketball coach Sharron Thompson described his team's home win over a South Haven team that features one of the area's top scorers in Ly'Nique Cunningham.

"This was a huge, huge win for us against the division-leading Rams," Thompson said.

The win, according to Thompson, came down to a strong performance on the defensive end coupled with some timely shots on the offensive end.

"We played really good defense and were able to find a decent shooting groove to claim the victory," he said.

Allegan (13-6 overall) trailed 21-19 at halftime before using a 14-12 edge in the third quarter to knot the score at 33-33.

The fourth quarter belonged to Allegan junior Jayden VandenAkker, who scored eight of her team-best 16 points in the frame to lead the Tigers to the win.

Maddie Antkoviak added 10 points for the Tigers, while Ellie Ziemelis chipped in with six.

Allegan held Cunningham well below her season average with 20 points.

The victory over South Haven got Allegan back on the winning track following a 26-16 loss to Parchment on Tuesday, Feb. 18, snapping a five-game winning streak.

"We struggled to get anything going offensively, while the Panthers knocked down three 3-pointers in the first half to help them secure the win," Thompson said.

Allegan held Parchment to single digits in three of the four quarters, including three in the first frame and four in the final frame.

But the Tigers were unable to score more than five points in any quarter in suffering the loss.

Ziemelis and Alyssa Macherzak each scored six points to pace Allegan.

Otsego girls split pair of games

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PAW PAW—The third quarter was the turning point in the girls basketball teams from Otsego and Paw Paw on Friday, Feb. 21.

More accurately, the final portion of the third quarter was the turning point.

With the Bulldogs leading 43-36 midway through the third stanza, Paw Paw embarked on a 17-2 run to go up 53-45 on the way to the 71-60 win.

The Red Wolves also scored the first six points of the final frame to push the lead to 59-45.

"We kept fighting but ultimately couldn't get it under double digits the rest of the game," Otsego coach Tony Koshar said. "I felt like we were in good position, but Paw Paw made some nice plays and we had some breakdowns defensively that aren't normal for us. We also didn't finish well around the rim and that cost us."

Brooke Smalldon paced Otsego with 15 points to go with six rebounds and three assists. Reagen Engbers added 10 points and three steals, while Tessa Prough and Audrey Lingbeek went for nine points each.

Lingbeek also dished out a team-high four assists and matched Engbers for team-best honors in steals with three.

Otsego fell behind 9-2 to start the game and trailed 16-12 at the end of the first quarter before bouncing back to take a 29-24 halftime lead.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, Otsego bested Sturgis 53-41behind a game-topping 24 points and eight steals from Smalldon

"It was a good game for us on the road against an excellent Sturgis team that had been winning a lot lately," Koshar said.

Otsego led 9-6 after one quarter and 23-13 at the half.

Sturgis rallied in the third quarter and eventually narrowed Otsego's lead to a single point at 38-37 early in the fourth quarter. But the Bulldogs closed the game on a 15-4 run to pull away.

Lingbeek finished with 10 points, five rebounds, four steals and three assists, while Prough had nine points, eight rebounds and five blocks.

Fennville girls win two games

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—A double-double from Lila Rosema highlighted a 48-24 win by the Fennville girls basketball team over visiting Watervliet on Friday, Feb. 21.

Rosema scored a game-topping 16 points and snagged 12 rebounds in the victory, which upped the Blackhawks' record to 8-10.

Ceeley Howard had a strong all-around game for Fennville, going for 10 points, seven rebounds and seven assists. Christina Mendoza and Amiyah Johnson chipped in with nine and eight points, respectively.

The game started slowly for Fennville, which trailed 6-3 after one quarter. The Blackhawks narrowed the deficit to 13-12 at halftime before embarking on a 23-5 run in the third stanza to go up 35-18.

Rosema also scored 16 points two days earlier as Fennville held off visiting Black River for the 55-52 triumph.

Cailey Mokma joined Rosema with 16 points, while Howard added 13 points to give Fennville three double-digit scorers.

After trailing 12-7 at the end of the first quarter, the Blackhawks rallied to take leads of 27-20 at halftime and 46-40 heading to the fourth quarter.

Martin girls get past Black River

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOLLAND—Avery Jager and Marybeth Ritchie teamed up to form quite the one-two punch for the Martin girls basketball team in its game with host Holland Black River on Friday, Feb. 21.

Jager and Ritchie combined for 30 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Clippers to the 47-34 win.

"Marybeth and Avery were dominant tonight," Martin coach Ben Schipper said. "Marybeth also played incredible defense all night long and was the most aggressive she's been in the post all season, scoring and drawing fouls.

"Avery was also aggressively attacking the basket tonight getting to the free throw line."

Jager finished 9-of-12 from the line, while Ritchie was 5-of-6.

Martin trailed 21-19 at halftime before using a 13-3 third-quarter scoring run to go up 32-24.

The Clippers' lead was cut to four points midway through the final frame, but Martin regrouped to pull away.

"We're so proud of the girls tonight for the way we finished this game," Schipper said. "I've said it so many times this season, but we've gone through so many growing pains with our close losses this year and tonight we pulled out our second straight close win.

"It shows the growth we've had in many areas, but tonight showcased our improvement in game management. We slowed down and executed sets when we really needed buckets, we reduced our turnovers down the stretch and we made our free throws when we needed them."

Alley Bacon added nine points in the way, with Kayden Jager going for six points and seven rebounds.

The Clippers, who dropped a 68-34 decision to state-ranked Saugatuck in a makeup game on Wednesday, Feb. 19, beat Schoolcraft 49-41 on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

The Clippers led at the end of each quarter, but the game remained close throughout.

"We're so proud of the girls for coming away with this win," Schipper said.

Martin—which held leads of 8-6 after one quarter, 23-16 at halftime and 38-32 after three quarters—was up by just two points with 2:30 left to play.

But two free throws each from Kayden Jager and Avery Jager gave the Clippers some breathing room.

"Rather than crumble when things got a little tighter, we responded by playing our best," Schipper said. "Our defense got stops at the end and we finished the possessions with strong rebounds."

Anna Jager scored a career-high 18 points to lead Martin.

"Anna was knifing through the press, getting some coast-to-coast buckets," Schipper said.

Kayden Jager finished with nine points—including a 6-for-6 showing at the line—while Harris had 10 points on 5-of-8 shooting from the field.

Martin boys end regular season with three victories

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HOLLAND—When the Martin boys basketball team hosted Holland Black River in mid-January, the Clippers put themselves in position to win before ultimately falling by three points.

Martin had the opportunity to avenge that loss in the regular-season finale on Friday, Feb. 21.

And the Clippers made the most of that opportunity, outscoring the River Rats in each of the first three quarters and holding on for the 64-57 road victory.

The win, which upped Martin's record to 8-14, capped off a solid week that saw the Clippers also defeat Fennville (62-59 on Wednesday, Feb. 19) and West Michigan Lutheran (72-24 on Tuesday, Feb. 18).

"What a great way to end the regular season, winning three in a row this week," Martin coach Corby Callaway said. "We let the first game versus Black River slip away from us, but we held on tonight and made just enough plays at the end to seal it."

Blake Sweeting and Ethan Fitzpatrick carried the bulk of the offensive load for Martin, combining for 43 points. That included a game-best 24 from Sweeting—who also had nine rebounds, seen steals for four blocks—and 19 for Fitzpatrick.

Gavin Meyers had a solid all-around game with eight points, nine rebounds, five assists and four steals, with Peyton Schuring-Harris going for five points and 10 rebounds.

"Peyton and Blake had huge offensive rebound putbacks late in the fourth that really saved us," Callaway said. "Blake has worked himself into one of the most dominant big men in the area on offense and defense, and he's only a sophomore.

"He just continues to get better and better."

Sweeting's dominance was also on display in the win over Fennville, as he scored 23 points to go with 13 rebounds.

That effort helped the Clippers overcome a 38-21 halftime deficit to secure the win.

Martin held scoring advantages of 22-15 in the third quarter and 16-9 in the final frame.

"This was a win for us," Callaway said. "We were down 17 at the half, but our guys never stopped battling. We got into a better rhythm defensively late in the third quarter and whenever our defense is playing well, our offense always follows.

"It was another monster game for Blake. He really started to take the game over in the second half."

Meyers added 12 points, with Fitzpatrick going for 11 to give Martin three double-digit scorers.

"We made plays in the fourth quarter, whether it was a stop or getting a bucket or causing a turnover," Callaway said. "And shout out to our freshman Jason Marshall, who was 5-of-6 from the free throw line, including sinking two late in the fourth to put us up three."

The outcome of the West Michigan Lutheran game was never in doubt, as the Clippers jumped out to a 25-8 lead after one quarter. By halftime, Martin's lead had ballooned to 50-15.

"It's always nice to win on the road," Callaway said.

All 10 Clippers found their way into the scoring column.

"We played hard and worked on some things that we need to get better at as we head into the last couple games of the season and into districts," Callaway said. "I was happy with our focus and our energy."

Fitzpatrick led the offensive charge with 24 points, including six 3-pointers. Marshall and Sweeting added 11 points each, with Sweeting also collecting five rebounds.

Meyers (eight points, nine assists, five rebounds), Schuring-Harris (six points, 10 rebounds) and Ben Romero (seven rebounds, three points, three assists) also had solid performances for Martin.

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Plainwell cheer team claims regional title

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GRAND RAPIDS—The Plainwell competitive cheer team was the only state-ranked squad in the 12-team field at the Division 2 regional hosted by Forest Hills Northern on Saturday, Feb. 22.

That made the Trojans the favorites to claim the regional title. And they didn't disappoint.

Posting the top score in each of the first two rounds, Plainwell amassed a total of 767.68 points to finish more than seven points ahead of runner-up Zeeland West (760.14).

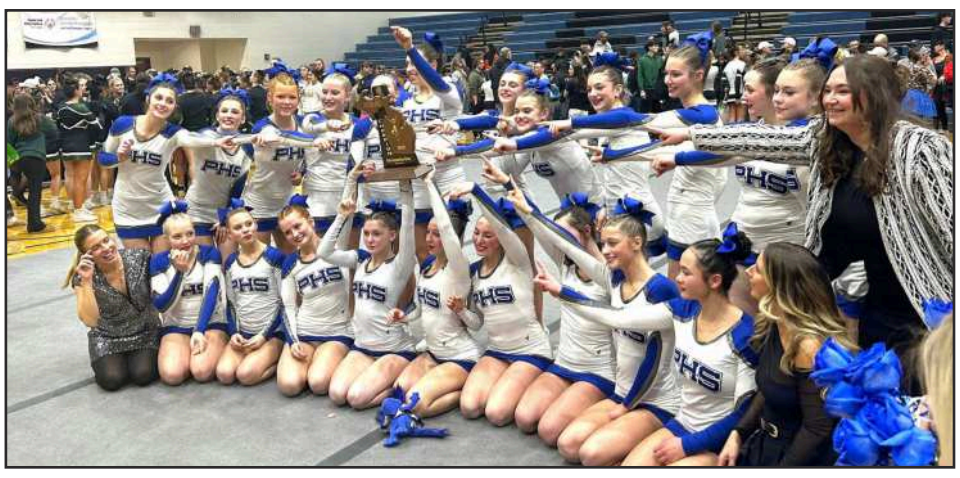
Cedar Springs (750.86) and Reeths-Puffer (746.6) finished third and fourth, respectively, to join Plainwell and Zeeland West in qualifying for the Division 2 State Finals.

The finals are slated for Saturday, March 1, at Central Michigan University's McGuirk Arena. Start time is 3:30 p.m.

Plainwell scored 232.2 points in round one at regionals and 224.08 points in round two for a total of 456.28 points. That gave the Trojans an 11.24-point lead over Zeeland West and a 19.02-point lead over Cedar Springs.

And while those two teams scored slightly higher than Plainwell in round three, it wasn't enough to knock the Trojans out of the top spot.

In Division 3 regional action, Allegan placed 11th at Grand Rapids West Catholic with 677.92 points.



Members of the Plainwell competitive cheer team are all smiles after winning a regional title. (Photo provided)

Trailblazers secure second straight SAC Central crown

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—It appeared as though the Saugatuck girls basketball team was going to have a tough game on Friday, Feb. 21, as visiting Gobles jumped out to an 8-0 lead.

But as is so often the case, appearances can be deceiving.

The Trailblazers bounced back to outscore Gobles 27-6 the remainder of the opening quarter and never looked back in securing the 79-46 win.

In addition to giving the team's four seniors some good memories of Senior Night, the victory also put the finishing touches on Saugatuck's second straight SAC Central championship. The Trailblazers, who improved to 19-1 overall with their 13th straight win, finished a perfect 10-0 in the division.

Defense was the key to Saugatuck's success, according to coach Kevin Tringali, with "steals and full-court pressure" helping to stake the Trailblazers to a 65-37 lead through three quarters.

Four players scored in double figures for Saugatuck, with the dynamic guard duo of junior Tali Laskowski and sophomore Mylah Simpson combined for 42 points. Senior post Kennedy Gustafson added 18 points, with junior power forward Maggie Loomis finishing with a career-high 14 points.

Two days earlier, Saugatuck hosted Martin in a makeup game and came away with the 68-38 victory.

The game came just one day after a 58-47 win over Kalamazoo Christian.

"We have been hammering home the point of always having a championship mindset and effort regardless of the circumstances," Tringali said. "Our kids understand this, as you could see by their effort tonight.

"This was a game where they could have dipped below the expectations they have on themselves, especially after last night's game. But they didn't do that and for that we are extremely pleased."

Saugatuck led 22-9 at the end of the first period and extended that lead to 40-14 at halftime.

Seven Saugatuck players found their way into the scoring column, led again by Laskowski with 21 points and Simpson with 20.

The game with Kalamazoo Christian was a battle of two state-ranked teams. And the Trailblazers responded with what Tringali called "our best overall game of the season."

Laskowski paced Saugatuck with a game-high 24 points.

"But it was her several steals and assist that really helped us," Tringali said.

Gustafson recorded a double-double with 12 rebounds and 12 points, and Simpson finished with 11 points that included a 3-pointer late in the game.

"We are so proud of how resilient our kids were tonight," Tringali said. "It was a heavyweight fight from start to finish, but we kept our poise every time they made a run. We valued every possession as we only had 13 turnovers.

"We lost our player a few times on the perimeter and they made us pay, but we seemed to always find a response, especially the way Tali was coming off screens and getting to the hoop."

Saugatuck took a 27-20 lead into the break but saw that lead trimmed to 38-37 after three quarters. A 20-9 fourth-quarter run sealed the game for Saugatuck.

Tali Laskowski drives around a defender in a recent game. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Otsego bests Wayland on Senior Night

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—The final home dual meet of the season always brings with it some mixed emotions for Otsego boys swim & dive coach Darryl Belton.

"This is always a very bittersweet meet," Belton said after his team hosted Wayland on Tuesday, Feb. 18, for both Parents Night and Senior Night. "In a way, I know all of my seniors are ready for the next thing and I am excited for them and that they are ready to leave. Knowing they won't be back is the hard part.

"As a coach, I am lucky that I get front-row seats in watching them grow from goofy and immature 13-year-old goofballs into strong and mostly independent young men. That part of the coaching experience is fun and makes my job better than everybody else's job.

"But I do tend to get a little melancholy in knowing that this is the end. In other two to four weeks, they won't be part of my day-to-day stuff."

Belton was happy that the seniors went out as winners in their pool, earning the 102-84 win.

"I thought we performed very well," Belton said.

Personal-record performances by seniors Caleb Payseno (175.5 in diving) and Jacob Underwood (2:24.39 in the 200-yard free style) were among the highlights for Belton.

"We were missing two kids and that meant the lineup had to be a bit different, but the team fought through it," Belton said.

Another highlight came from junior standout Liam Smith, who won the 100 backstroke with a state-qualifying time of 52.25. That gave him qualifying times in all eight individual swimming events.

"Liam making the backstroke cut was fun as that was the only event he hadn't qualified for the state meet in," Belton said.

Smith also won the 200 IM (1:56.62) and was part of the winning 200 medley relay team (1:50.53 along with Liam Raseman, Tyler Campbell and Willsun Fuller) and the winning 400 free relay (3:37.13 along with Blake Guerrant, Carson Bydash and Fuller).

Guerrant joined Smith with two individual-event wins, taking the 200 free (1:56.96) and the 100 free (51.1).

"Blake's swim in the 200 free was fantastic," Belton said. "It was his first time swimming that this season."

Caleb Wesseldyk won diving for Otsego with a score of 235.2—just three points from a personal record—while fellow senior Collin Crites scored more than 40 points on a dive for the first time. Crites finished fourth in diving with 159.9 points.

"Caleb Wesseldyk and Collin both dove very well," Belton said.

Other wins for Otsego came from Fuller in the 100 butterfly (55.56), Raseman in the 500 free (5:21.46) and Tyler Campbell in the 100 breaststroke (1:18.6).

"Hopefully this meet is a nice lead in to next week's (conference) championships," Belton said. "I'm looking forward to seeing what this group can do with a little rest."

For Wayland, Eddie Oudbier won the 50 free (23.58) and was part of the winning 200 free relay team (1:40.25) along with Alex Hubbard, Jackson Byers and Evan Barnaby.

Eddie Oudbier competes for Wayland. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Carson Bydash is seen in the 200 free for Otsego. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Saugatuck boys drop district opener

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—The season game to an end for the Saugatuck boys basketball team with a 42-29 loss to Holland Black River in an opening-round Division 3 district contest on Monday, Feb. 24.

The Trailblazers, who faced issues with injuries and illness for the past month, finished with a 4-18 record.

"This season certainly did not go as anticipated," first-year Saugatuck coach Ty Rock said. "But when you have a total of eight varsity players—and only two returning who played heavy minutes from prior season—and then compound that with all the injuries and sickness that we had, there were a lot of games where we were playing younger guys."

That youth showed at the start of this game, as Saugatuck committed turnovers on each of its first four possessions. That helped stake Black River to a 7-0 lead.

And while the Trailblazers narrowed the gap to 12-9 after one quarter and were still within three at 19-16 late in the second quarter, they never fully recovered from that slow start.

"It was a tough one," Rock said. "But when you start the game with turnovers and allow (Black River) many second-chance points, it's hard to win any game, let alone a district game.

"All year we've dealt with the same issues: turnovers, allowing second-chance points and transition defense. This game was no exception."

Seniors Cass Stanberry and Carter Miller led Saugatuck with 11 and 10 points, respectively. Junior Sammy Gamboa added four points.

Looking to next season, Rock knows there is work to be done.

"The young guys will have to step up and I'm confident that they will step up," he said. "They are a good group of kids, but most importantly they care about the game and they have the desire to get better.

"This offseason will be huge for us. If we have a high level of commitment, we can make huge strides. Only time will tell to see who wants to step up and get better every day."

OVERISEL TOWNSHIP
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The 2025 tentative ratios and factors are given below by class, as set by the County Equalization Department.

CLASS	RATIO	FACTOR
AGRICULTURE	42.46	1.1767
COMMERCIAL	49.07	1.0190
INDUSTRIAL	48.46	1.0318
RESIDENTIAL	48.30	1.0352
ALL PERSONAL	50.00	1.0000

Adjustments have been made to the assessment roll so that the anticipated Equalization Factor for 2025 will be 1.000. Property owners may examine the assessment roll at the office during normal Township Hall hours.

2025 Board of Review will be in session during the days listed below. Property owners who desire to appeal the assessed value of their property must do so during these times. Appeals are by appointment only. For an appointment call 269-751-7030. Written appeals will also be accepted.

Monday, March 10: 2 - 5 PM and 6 – 9 PM
Wednesday, March 12: 9 AM – Noon and 1 – 4 PM

GUN PLAIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 381 8th Street, Plainwell, MI 49080 to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025: 9:00 am Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Wednesday, March 12, 2025: 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm

And on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

Letter appeals will be accepted in lieu of appearance and must be received no later than 5:00 pm March 11, 2025. Mailing address is 381 8th St., Plainwell, MI 49080.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	41.56%	1.2030
Commercial	45.77%	1.0924
Industrial	44.30%	1.1287
Residential	45.08%	1.1091
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Michael VanDenBerg,
Supervisor Gun Plain Charter Township
Heather Mitchell,
Assessor Gun Plain Charter Township

TOWNSHIP OF CHESHIRE
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 104th Ave & 41st St, Allegan, MI 49010 to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025: 1:30 pm Organizational Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2025: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Thursday, March 13, 2025: 9:00 am – Noon and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

And on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

Letter appeals will be accepted in lieu of appearance and must be received no later than 5:00 pm March 12, 2025. Mailing address is 817 Windigo Ln. Otsego, MI 49078.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	37.16%	1.3455
Commercial	50.42%	1.9917
Industrial	40.40%	1.2376
Residential	44.07%	1.1346
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Steve Revor, Supervisor Cheshire Township
Heather Mitchell, Assessor Cheshire Township

PUBLIC NOTICE
VALLEY TOWNSHIP BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Valley Township Board will hold its public hearing on the Proposed Budget for 2025-2026 Fiscal Year at the Valley Township Hall, 2054 North M-40, Allegan, Michigan on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7:30 PM.

THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING.

Copies of the proposed Annual Budget are available to the public by contacting Brandee Ellis, Clerk, and will be on the agenda for discussion. This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.72a (2) (3).

Brandee Ellis
Valley Township Clerk

NOTICE
Martin Township 2025 Board of Review

The Martin Township Board of Review will be held at the Township Hall (Fire Hall), 988 Templeton, Martin, MI 49070, on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 4,
9:00 a.m. – Organizational Meeting only
Monday, March 10,
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Appeal Hearing
Thursday, March 13,
3 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Appeal Hearing

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. Letters are accepted as appeal, provided they are received prior to the final appeal hearing. Send letter to the Martin Township Board of Review, PO Box 184, Martin, MI 49070.

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 as provided by the Allegan County Equalization Department are as follows:

Agricultural	44.55%	1.12233
Commercial	50.26%	0.99482
Industrial	44.56%	1.12208
Residential	48.57%	1.02944
Personal Property	50.00%	1.00000

State Equalized Value (SEV) represents 50% of the True Cash Value of the property. Taxable Value (TV) is the lower of the SEV or the 2024 TV multiplied by the Inflation Rate Multiplier (1.031). Transfers of ownership in 2024 will cause the cap in taxable value to be removed, making the taxable value equal to the SEV for 2025.

Glenn Leep
Martin Township Supervisor

Krista Simmons
Martin Township Assessor

TOWNSHIP OF ALLEGAN
2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall, 3037 118th Ave, Allegan, MI 49010 to examine and review the 2025 assessment roll. The board will convene on the following dates for the hearing of appeals of assessments or taxable values, poverty exemptions, parcel classification appeals and/or current year qualified agricultural denials:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025: 12:00 pm (noon) Organizational Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2025: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Tuesday, March 11, 2025: 9:00 am – Noon and 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

And on such additional days as required to hear all persons who have given notice of the desire to be heard until assessment rolls have been revised, corrected and approved.

Letter appeals will be accepted in lieu of appearance and must be received no later than 5:00 pm March 10, 2025. Mailing address is 3037 118th Ave. Allegan, MI 49010.

Tentative ratios and estimated multipliers for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	44.60%	1.1211
Commercial	48.84%	1.0238
Industrial	37.71%	1.3259
Residential	46.33%	1.0792
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Tentative equalization factor of 1.0000 for all classes is expected after completion of Board of Review.

Stephen A. Schulz,
Supervisor Allegan Township
Heather Mitchell, Assessor Allegan Township

TOWNSHIP OF CLYDE
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW

The Township of Clyde Board of Review will meet Monday March 10, 2025, from 3:00pm-9:00pm and Tuesday March 11, 2025, 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm- 4:00pm at the Clyde Township Hall, 1679 56th Street, Fennville Michigan.

Written petitions may also be sent to the Board of Review at 2386 58th Street, Fennville Michigan 49408. Property owners or their representatives must contest at the local board of review if they intend to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

Ratio of State Equalized Value to True Cash Value: 50%

	Multiplier	Ratio
Agricultural	1.09721	45.57
Commercial	1.00766	49.62
Residential	1.22130	40.94
Development	NC	NC
Personal	1.0000	50.00
Industrial	1.01235	49.39

Tommie L. Giles
Clyde Township Supervisor
269-561-5214

TOWNSHIP OF HOPKINS
NOTICE OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The Hopkins Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed township budget for fiscal year 2025/2026 at Hopkins Township Hall, 128 S. Franklin Street, Hopkins, Allegan County, Michigan on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. A copy of the budget is available for public inspection at www.hopkintownship.org or 128 S Franklin Street, Hopkins, Michigan.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41 .72a (2) (3) and the Americans With Disabilities Act. (ADA). The Hopkins Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon six days notice to the Hopkins Township Board.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hopkins Township Board by writing or calling the following:
Stacey Timmer, Hopkins Township Clerk
(269) 793-3188
PO Box 217
Hopkins, MI 49328

By Resolution of the Hopkins Township Board, Annual Meetings are discontinued.

Stacey Timmer
Hopkins Township Clerk

DORR TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW HEARINGS

The Board of Review will be meeting in March to review the Assessment Roll and hear appeals. All meetings will be held at the Dorr Township Hall, 4196 18th Street, Dorr, Michigan 49323. The hearings will begin on March 10, 2025. HEARINGS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Please call Dorr Township Office Manager, Vicki Fifelski at 616-681-9874 ext. 105 for available appointments.

If the times available are not convenient, you may appeal by letter. Send letters to Dorr Township, 4196 18th Street, Dorr, MI 49323. All letters must be received by 5:00 p.m. 3-10-2025.

Monday March 10th
9:00 am to 12:00pm 1 pm to 4 pm
Tuesday March 11th
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm 6 pm to 9:00 pm

Assessments have been adjusted to result in anticipated multipliers of 1.0000 for all classes. With "Proposal A" in effect, the Taxable Values, excluding new construction and ownership transfers, are capped at the inflation rate of 5% for the 2025 tax year. Taxes are based on Taxable Value. Also, note that if you should have a Principal Residence Exemption on your property and this is not noted on your notice, you should contact the Assessor.

2025 Starting Ratios are as follows:		Factors:	
Ag:	43.48	Ag:	1.1499
Com:	48.55	com:	1.0298
Ind:	47.89	Ind:	1.0440
Res:	45.19	Res:	1.1064

Michael Richmond
Dorr Township Assessor

NOTICE
OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION
TOWNSHIP OF HOPKINS
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPKINS, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following Ordinances were adopted by the Hopkins Township Board at a regular meeting held at Hopkins Township Hall, 142 E. Main, Hopkins, MI, at 7:30 pm on Monday, February 10, 2025 as summarized below:

ORDINANCE NO 2025-01: An amendment to the Hopkins Township Zoning Map.

ARTICLE I. Amend the Official Zoning Map and rezone AG- Agricultural to R-1 Rural Estates, the parcel addressed as 2250 133rd Ave., also known as permanent parcel 03-10-007-009-00, and legally described as the NE 1/4 SW 1/4 SE 1/4 ALSO NW 1/4 SE 1/4 EX COM 1588.83' W OF E 1/4 PST TH S 34 DEG 34'52" W 370.53' TH N 83 DEG 46'50" W 123.70' TH N 5 DEG 26'45" E 293.98' TH E 305.38' TO POB SEC 7 T3N R12W This parcel encompasses approximately 48.22 acres.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02: An amendment to permit and regulate accessory dwelling units within the Township.

ARTICLE I. Amends the following:
1. Add definitions to section 157.005 for Inlaw Suite and Dwelling Unit, Accessory
2. Repeals Section 157.066.C
3. Repeals Section 157.086(B)(4)
4. Add Section 157.054 to define and permit accessory dwelling units under specific conditions within the Township.

BOTH ORDINANCES HAVE THE SAME ARTICLES II AND III AS FOLLOWS:
ARTICLE II. SEVERABILITY. This section provides for the repeal of any conflicting Ordinances.

ARTICLE III. EFFECTIVE DATE
This Ordinance shall take effect eight days following publication after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a true copy of these Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk at Hopkins Township Office and that a copy of this Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days. A copy of this Ordinance may also be viewed on the Township website at www.hopkinstownship.org.

STACEY TIMMER, CLERK
HOPKINS TOWNSHIP
PO BOX 217
HOPKINS, MI 49328
269-806-7547

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
CITY OF OTSEGO RIVERFRONT PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Otsego will hold a Public Hearing to consider a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). The hearing will take place on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Otsego City Hall, 117 E Orleans St, Otsego, MI 49078.

The grant application proposes the installation of all-season bathrooms as well as other improvements at Riverfront Park to enhance accessibility, functionality, and overall park use.

Residents and stakeholders are invited to attend the hearing and provide their input on the proposed project. Feedback from the community will be used to refine the grant application and ensure it aligns with public needs and expectations.

If you are unable to attend the hearing but would like to provide comments, please contact Aaron Mitchell, City Manager at amitchell@cityofotsego.org.

Angela Cronen, MMC
City Clerk

NOTICE
OTSEGO TOWNSHIP
Allegan County – Michigan
2025 March Board of Review
Meeting Dates

Tuesday: March 4, 2025, Organizational Meeting, No Hearings 11:00AM

Wednesday: March 12, 2025, 2:00PM – 5:00PM
6:00PM – 9:00PM

Thursday: March 13, 2025, 9:00AM – 12:00PM
1:00PM – 4:00PM

Other meetings as necessary. All reviews will be appointment. Call (269) 694-9434 to schedule appt. Reviews will be held at the Otsego Township Hall 400 North 16th Avenue, Otsego MI 49078. Written appeals will be accepted until 12:00PM Thursday March 13, 2025.

The Allegan County Equalization Initial Factors & Ratios for the Otsego Township will be as follows:

Agricultural:	1.2222	40.91
Commercial:	1.0269	48.69
Industrial:	1.2186	41.03
Residential:	1.1238	44.49

Due to assessment changes Otsego Township anticipates that all ending factors will be 1.0000

Assessor: Lydia Paille
Township Clerk: Jen Colin
Dated: February 17, 2025

NOTICE

Martin Township is now accepting bids for lawn care for the 2025 year. This is to include Martin Township Hall, JC Wheeler Library, empty lot across the street from Township, Old East and South Cemeteries. Please send sealed bids to Jennifer Wharton, Attn: Lawn care bid, PO Box 27, Martin, MI 49070.

TOWNSHIP OF MONTEREY
-NOTICE-
OF ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

The MONTEREY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT MONTEREY COMMUNITY BUILDING, 2999 30TH ST., ALLEGAN MICHIGAN ON SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025 AT 10:00 AM.

At this time a Public Hearing on the proposed 2025/2026 Township Budget will be held. **"THE PROPERTY TAX MILLAGE RATE PROPOSED TO BE LEVIED TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED BUDGET WILL BE A SUBJECT OF THIS HEARING."** A Copy of the budget is available for public inspection at 2605 30th St., Allegan, Michigan.

This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) MCLA 41.72a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Monterey Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon 6 days notice to the Monterey Township Board.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Monterey Township Board by writing or calling the following: Megan Frank, Monterey Township Clerk 269/793-2014.

Megan Frank
Monterey Township Clerk

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL MEETING THERE WILL BE A TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING TO CLOSE OUT THE 2024/2025 FISCAL YEAR AND ADOPT THE 2025/2026 BUDGET.

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TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

To: The residents and property owners of the Township of Valley, Allegan County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Valley Board of Trustees adopted Ordinance No. 259 at a regular board meeting held on February 11, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 259
MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES CORPORATION
FRANCHISE ORDINANCE

SECTION I. FRANCHISE GRANTED. This Section grants a franchise to the Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation ("Grantee") for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and operating a gas distribution system in the Township.

SECTION II. TERM. This Section provides that the franchise is being granted for a period of thirty (30) years.

SECTION III. GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS. This Section provides that the franchise is subject to the laws of the State of Michigan and any applicable local laws.

SECTION IV. CONSTRUCTION. The Grantee shall ensure that all work related to the franchise is done in a manner as to limit inconveniences or disturbances to residents to only those that are reasonably necessary.

SECTION V. MAINTENANCE. The Grantee shall use best efforts to reasonably maintain the facilities and equipment in a manner that is sufficient to meet the current and future energy needs of the Township.

SECTION VI. EXTENSION OF COMPANY FACILITIES. This Section provides that the Grantee shall make reasonable extensions of its distribution facilities to service residents of the Township, upon application for service by residents.

SECTION VII. RELOCATION OF COMPANY FACILITIES. This Section provides that the Grantee will relocate its facilities upon reasonable request of the Township; and provides for reimbursement to the Grantee if the relocation is not for a public purpose.

SECTION VIII. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. This Section permits the Grantee to request that certain information be kept confidential, to the extent allowed by law.

SECTION IX. FORCE MAJEURE. This Section provides that it shall not be a breach of the franchise agreement if either party fails to perform its obligations due to force majeure; and gives examples of force majeure events.

SECTION X. HOLD HARMLESS. This Section Provides that the Grantee shall hold the Township harmless against all claims of loss, damage or expenses of any kind arising from the Corporation's construction, maintenance, and use of the gas distribution system, unless the injury was caused by the negligence of the Township, its employees, contractors or agents.

SECTION XI. SEVERABILITY. If any clause, sentence or section of this Ordinance is deemed invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

SECTION XII. NON-WAIVER. A waiver of any obligation or default under this franchise shall not be construed as a waiver of any future defaults whether of like or different character.

SECTION XIII. REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCE. This Section repeals all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith.

SECTION XIV. EFFECTIVE DATE AND ACCEPTANCE. This Section provides that this Ordinance shall take effect either upon acceptance of the Ordinance by Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation or the day following publication, whichever is later.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Township of Valley at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days.

TOWNSHIP OF VALLEY

Brandee Ellis, Clerk
2054 N M-40
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-5962
office@valleytwp.org

Public Notices

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FORFEIT AND DISPOSE OF PROPERTY

BRADLEY BASTOW (formerly of 6990 114th Ave. in South Haven):

The state of Michigan, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, herewith provides notice that it intends to dispose of certain personal property that was seized on May 12, 2017, in the course of investigating a complaint filed with the Bureau of Professional Licensing (Complaint No. 51-XX-146276). If you believe you have a claim to said property, please reply in writing to:

Lorne Carignan
Bureau of Professional Licensing
611 W. Ottawa
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, Michigan 48909
1-23 3-27

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE – Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Joseph J. Laroy, a Married Man and Pricilla Laroy, his wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS), as nominee for Decision One Mortgage Company, LLC, dated September 27, 2004, and recorded in Liber 2738, Page 108, in Allegan County records, Michigan, and assigned to Household Finance Corporation III by a corrective Assignment of Mortgage recorded on April 10, 2012 in Liber 3607, Page 376, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF8 Master Participation Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on February 24, 20214 in Liber 3816, Page 688, and assigned to U.S. Bank Trust, National Association, as Trustee of the FW Series I Trust by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on May 12, 2020 in Liber 4461, Page 226, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Two and 80/100 dollars ($109,472.80). Said premises are situated in the Township of Otsego, County of Allegan, and State of Michigan, and particularly described as: Lot 5, Oak View Farm, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 15 of Plats, Page 66, Allegan County Records. Commonly known as: 282 Zak Rd., Plainwell, MI 49080 Property Address: 282 Zak Road, Plainwell, MI 49080 Parcel No.: 17-660-005-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: February 6, 2025 For more information, please call: (440) 572-1511 Sottile and Barile PLLC Attorneys for Plaintiff 394 Wards Corner Boulevard, Suite 180 Loveland, OH 45140 File MF2410006 - Laroy, Joseph J., Pricilla Laroy

(02-06)(02-27)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Robert S. Morgan Jr., a married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc.

Date of Mortgage: July 12, 2016

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 15, 2016

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $64,503.32

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Cheshire, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: A parcel of land described as commencing at the Southwest corner of the East 70 acres of the West half of the Southeast quarter of Section 10, Town 1 North, Range 14 West, and running thence North 250 feet; thence East 250 feet; thence South 250 feet; thence West 250 feet to the place of beginning

Common street address (if any): 4077 108th Ave, Allegan, MI 49010-9315

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: February 6, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1552485
(02-06)(02-27)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in ALLEGAN County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 6, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Miriaixcel Cardona, a married woman, as her sole and separate property, whose address is 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, MI 49450, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as a nominee for Aspire Financial, Inc., D/B/A Aspire Lending, being a mortgage dated November 4, 2015, and recorded on November 13, 2015 in Liber 3980 Page 705, Allegan County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated April 13, 2022 and recorded on April 13, 2022 in Liber 4750 Page 84, Allegan County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SEVENTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY AND 60/100 DOLLARS ($70,890.60). Said premises are situated in the Township of Lee, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as: Lots 64, 65 and 66 of Vio Ashdale's Addition to the Village of Pullman, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats on Page 12. Street Address: 5549 109th Avenue, Pullman, MI 49450 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: February 6, 2025 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson (P69564), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 509, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 25 6248

(02-06)(02-27)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a mortgage made by Melissa Young (the "Mortgagor") in favor of Big Brother Bail Bonds Agency, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company with an address of 800 Monroe Ave NW, Suite 212, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (the "Mortgagee") dated August 19, 2024, and recorded on September 19, 2024 at Liber 4974, Page 637 of Allegan County Records (the "Mortgage"). The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid as of the date of this Notice is Five Thousand Five Hundred and 0/100 ($5,500.00). This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note as permitted by Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of default. The Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of thereof, at public auction, to the highest bidder for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of the sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on, or prior to, the date of said sale. Notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises or some part of them at a public venue at the place of holding, Allegan County Courthouse Lobby at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 at 9:00 a.m. on March 20, 2025. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage is located in the Township of Valley, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, more specifically described as: LOT 155 ASPEN ACRES SEC 21 T2N R14W. Parcel ID: 22-160-155-00 Commonly Known As: 1777 Grant Drive, Allegan, MI 49010 together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures: all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the property; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the Foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind the sale at any time. In the event of cancellation or rescission, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for any damage to the property during the redemption period. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of the sale unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be thirty (30) days from the date of the sale, or as otherwise provided by statute. DATED: February 7, 2025 SHAUN P. WILLIS (P62441) WILLIS LAW ATTORNEYS FOR BIG BROTHER BAIL BONDS AGENCY, LLC 491 W. South Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007 (269) 492-1040

(02-13)(03-06)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on March 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Aaron J. Lynema, a married man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 29, 2021 Recorded on May 6, 2021, Liber 4615, on Page 681, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on January 11, 2023 in Liber 4829, on Page 402 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Union Home Mortgage Corp. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Fifty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Nine and 63/100 Dollars ($158,679.63) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Commencing at the North 1/4 post of Section 33, Town 3 North, Range 13 West, thence South 0 degrees 25 minutes 54 seconds West on the North and South 1/4 line 489.50 feet, thence East on the South line of the North 20 acres of that part of the Northeast 1/4 lying West of the centerline of the highway 1182.52 feet to the place of beginning of this description, thence continuing East 589.19 feet to the centerline of 30th Street, thence along the centerline of 30th Street North 0 degrees 05 minutes 48 seconds West 109.51 feet, thence North 01 degree 29 minutes 56 seconds East 111.2 feet, being a chord on a curve to the right with a radius of 1910.08 feet and a central angle of 26 degrees 30 minutes, thence West 591.95 feet, thence South 0 degrees 00 minutes 31 seconds East 220.77 feet to the place of beginning. Commonly known as 2590 30th St, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Union Home Mortgage Corp. Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1553070
(02-13)(03-06)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
48TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY PROBATE
SUMMONS
Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
CASE NO. 25- 790.30 CH

Plaintiff's name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

JEANNE BODFISH, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Sheila Ann Garlock

Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.

Michael J. Becker P81132
ORTON, TOOMAN, HALE, McKOWN & KIEL, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
314 Trowbridge St., PO Box 239
Allegan, MI 45010
(269) 673-2136
v

Defendant's name(s), address(es), and telephone no(s).

Marjorie Yerek, and her unknown heirs, devisees and Assigns; Bennie McAnally and his unknown heirs, devisees and assigns

Civil Case

There is no other pending or resolved civil action arising out of the same transaction or occurrence as alleged in the complaint.

SUMMONS

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT: In the name of the people of the State of Michigan you are notified:

1. You are being sued.

2. YOU HAVE 21 DAYS after receiving this summons and a copy of the complaint to file a written answer with the serve a copy on the other party or take other lawful action with the court (28 days if you were served by mia) or served outside this state).

3. If you do not answer or take other action within the time allowed, judgment may be entered against you for the relief demandedin the complaint.

4. If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability or if you require a foraign language interpreter to help you fully participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangments.

Issue Date 1/27/25
Expiration date: 04/27/25
****

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
COUNTY BUILDING,
ALLEGAN, MICHIGAN 49010
File No.: 25-70030-CH
HON. MATTHEW ANTKOVIAK
JEANNE BODFISH as Personal Representative for the ESTATE OF SHEILA ANN GARLOCK, Plantiff
MARJORIE YEREK and her unknown Heirs, Devisees and Assigns; and, BENNIE MCANALLY and his unknown Hiers, Devisees and Assigns.
Defendant
Michael J. Becker P81132
ORTON, TOOMAN, HALE, McKOWN & KIEL, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs
314 Trowbridge St., PO Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-2136

ORDER FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

At a session of court held in the co use in Allegan County, Michigan, on 2/10/2025

Present: Honorable Matthew Antkoviak
Circuit Court Judge

Plaintiff filed a verified ex parte motion for service of process in the discretion of the court. After reading the verified motion, the court finds that Plaintiff has shown that service of process cannot reasonably be made on Defendants by the methods provided in MCR 2.105(A), in that Plaintiff has demonstrated diligent attempts to locate Defendants.

The court further finds, pursuant to MCR 2.105(1), that service of process by publication

is the best available method of service of process reasonably calculated to give Defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

IT IS ORDERED that Plaintiff must serve the Defendants by publication for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper located in Allegan County, Michigan.

Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
Hon. Matthew Antkoviak
Prepared by: Orton, Tooman, Hale, McKown & Keil, P.C.
By Michael J. Becker P81132
2-20 3-6

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 24-65318-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Sheri L. Davis Date of Birth:*04/30/1970

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Sheri L. Davis, died 08/13/2024 .

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jennifer Folkert , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Jason W. Wesseling (P85634)
6439 28th Ave.
Hudsonville, MI 49426
616-669-8185
Jennifer Folkert
3215 50th St.
Hamilton, MI 49419
616-886-2832

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65486-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Bryan Steketee
Date of Birth:*see form MC 97

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Bryan Steketee, died 2/10/25 .

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Stanford Mark Steketee and Jan Marie Revlett , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

2-20-2025

tanford Mark Steketee and Jan Marie Revlett

Stanford: 44 Browns Gulch Rd; Jan: 681 Saunders Ave

Stan: Boulder MT; Jan: Holland, MI 49423

406-461-6353

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Hugh Fredrick Mehaffie, Jr., deceased
Date of Birth: May 25, 1934
TO ALL CREDITORS:

The decedent, Hugh Fredrick Mehaffie, Jr., died on January 1, 2025. Creditors are notified that all claims against Hugh Fredrick Mehaffie, Jr., the Hugh Fredrick Mehaffie, Jr. Trust or his estate will be forever barred unless presented to The Connable Office, Inc. within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

The Connable Office, Inc.
136 East Michigan Avenue, Suite 1201
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
Tel: (269) 567-9364
Fax: (269) 382-0079

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on April 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Adam J. Watkins and Daniela M. Watkins, husband and wife, as tenants by the entireties

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation

Date of Mortgage: December 28, 2020

Date of Mortgage Recording: January 6, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $330,409.53

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Trowbridge, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: Part of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 24, Town 1 North, Range 13 West, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 24; thence North along the West line of the Southwest 1/4 of said Section 24, 522.72 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence continuing North along said West line, 797.87 feet; thence East perpendicular to said West line, 647.74 feet; thence South parallel with said West line, 797.87 feet; thence West perpendicular to said West line, 647.74 feet to the point of beginning.

Except the following Parcels A and B:

Parcel A (Southerly portion)

That part of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 24, Town 1 North, Range 13 West described as Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 24; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East on the West line of said Section, 522.72 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence continuing North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East on said West line, 185.75 feet; thence South 73 degrees 59 minutes 56 seconds East, 673.85 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, 647.74 feet to the West line of said Section and the point of beginning.

Parcel B (Northerly portion)

That part of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 24, Town 1 North, Range 13 West described as Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 24; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East on the West line of said Section, 1320.59 feet; thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, 50.90 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence continuing North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, 596.84 feet; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, 200.04 feet; thence North 71 degrees 28 minutes 14 seconds West 629.47 feet to the point of beginning.

Common street address (if any): 435 26th St, Allegan, MI 49010-9788

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: February 27, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1553934
(02-27)(03-20)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2025-65463-DE and JUDGE Jolene A. Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of Ann Louise Meengs Date of Birth:*August 20, 1942

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Ann Louise Meengs, died December 10, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Amy L. Meengs / Michael L. Meengs, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Cunningham Dalman, P.C.
P. Haans Mulder P61842
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-1821
Amy L. Meengs
19 W. 29th Street
Holland, MI 49423
Michael L. Meengs
3943 Katie Court
Hudsonville, MI
(616) 550-1837

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2025-65441-DE and JUDGE Jolene A. Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of John Thomas Moser Date of Birth:* November 8, 1957

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, John Thomas Moser, died November 20, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Teresa Marie Moser, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Cunningham Dalman, P.C. P61842
P. Haans Mulder
321 Settlers Road
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-1821
Teresa Marie Moser
1116 Cambridge Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(616) 836-2721

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65412 -DA and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250

Estate of NATHAN THOMAS MULLIGAN Date of Birth:*MARCH 23, 1975

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, NATHAN THOMAS MULLIGAN, died OCTOBER 7, 2024 .

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to MANDI ELSMAN, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

(Continued on Page B7)

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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673-6352
Babylon Road, Allegan

Public Notices

Continued from, Page B6

02/20/2025 Date
ALBERT W. LAAKSONEN II P43920
226 1/2 EAST MICHIGAN AVE
PAW PAW MI 49079
269-655-1035
MANDI ELSMAN
22673 PAULSON ROAD
GOBLES MI 49055
269-998-5317

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF ALLEGAN
FILE NO: #-25 70077
ORDER TO ANSWER
HON. Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
THE DAVID C. VANDEBUNTE TRUST,
By David C. VandeBunte, its Trustee and
THE BARBARA A. VANDEBUNTE TRUST,
By Barbara A. VandeBunte, its Trustee
Plaintiffs,
Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2900
Attorney for Plaintiffs
VS.
IRENE PETERSEN REVOCABLE TRUST,
Defendant.
TO:
Fifth Third Bank-Cincinnati, Ohio as Trustee of the Irene Petersen Revocable Trust

At a session of said court held in the City of Allegan, County of Allegan, State of Michigan on the 12 day of February 2025.

PRESENT: HONORABLE Matthew Antkowiak P-59449, Circuit Judge

Based on the pleadings filed in the above entitled case, it is ordered that the Defendant, or any beneficiary of the Irene Petersen Revocable Trust, shall file a Notice of Interest in the above captioned case in real property more fully described as:

PARCEL 8 (FOR GRANTOR'S RECORDS ONLY)

LAND SITUATED IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, COUNTY OF ALLEGAN, TOWNSHIP OF GUN PLAIN

PARCEL 1: THE SOUTH 30 ACRES OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 11, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, AND THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4, ALSO: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4, THENCE NORTH 1000 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 31 DEGREES 35' EAST ABOUT 830.5 FEET TO THE INTER-SECTION OF THE HIGHWAY CENTERLINE, THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG CENTER OF THE GUN MARSH ROAD TO SOUTH SECTION LINE, THENCE WEST TO PLACE OF BEGINNING, ALL IN SECTION 11; EXCEPT: PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4, SECTION 11, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, GUN PLAIN TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, COMMENCING AT THE 1/4 CORNER COMMON TO SECTIONS 11 AND 14; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 59' 28" WEST ALONG THE LINE COMMON TO SECTIONS 11 AND 14, 1210.90 FEET TO THE CENTER LINE OF MARSH ROAD AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 89 DEGREES 59' 28" WEST ALONG SAID SECTION LINE 712.29 FEET; THENCE NORTH 39 DEGREES 18' 44" EAST 503.83 FEET TO A CREEK TRAVERSE LINE NEAR THE SOUTHWESTERLY BANK OF A CREEK; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID TRAVERSE LINE THE FOLLOWING COURSES: SOUTH 32 DEGREES 21' 30" EAST 89.53 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 64 DEGREES 41' 57" EAST 70.78 FEET; SOUTH 52 DEGREES 26' 13" EAST 55.52 FEET; SOUTH 36 DEGREES 43' 09" EAST 101.79 FEET; SOUTH 55 DEGREES 25' 30" EAST 80.18 FEET; SOUTH 70 DEGREES 05' 36" EAST 98.62 FEET; SOUTH 68 DEGREES 38' 24" EAST 54.07 FEET TO THE NORTHWESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF MARSH ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 49 DEGREES 02' 17" EAST 33.45 FEET TO THE CENTERLINE OF MARSH ROAD; THENCE SOUTH 50 DEGREES 20' 15" WEST ALONG SAID CENTERLINE 75.07 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, INCLUDING THAT AREA LYING BETWEEN SAID CREEK TRAVERSE LINE AND THE CENTERLINE OF CREEK, SAID PARCEL SO DESCRIBED, EXTENDS TO THE CREEK CENTERLINE WITH FULL RIGHTS PERTAINING THERETO.

EXCEPT: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 11, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, GUN PLAIN TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 54' 45" EAST, ALONG THE SOUTH SECTION LINE, 654.79 FEET, TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL OF LAND HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE CONTINUING ON SAID SECTION LINE NORTH 89 DEGREES 54' 45" EAST, 93.25 FEET; THENCE NORTH 39 DEGREES 18' 44" EAST, 509.97 FEET (PREVIOUSLY RECORDED AS 503.83 FEET; THENCE NORTH 51 DEGREES 22'21" WEST 549.93 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 17' 11" EAST 749.65 FEET, TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

EXCEPT: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 11, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST, GUN PLAIN TOWNSHIP, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 59'28" EAST, 1460.51 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 11 TO THE CENTERLINE OF MARSH ROAD; THENCE NORTH 48 DEGREES 10'58" EAST, 283.94 FEET ALONG SAID CENTERLINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTH 41 DEGREES 49'02" WEST, 180.83 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 43 DEGREES 03'52" WEST, 251.38 FEET TO A TRAVERSE LINE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF THE CREEK; THENCE SOUTH 67 DEGREES 45'02" EAST, 176.14 FEET ALONG SAID CENTERLINE OF SAID CREEK TO THE CENTERLINE OF MARCH ROAD; THENCE NORTH 48 DEGREE 10'58" EAST, 173.35 FEET ALONG CENTERLINE OF MARSH ROAD TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

PARCEL #0308-011-020-00

PARCEL 9 (FOR GRANTOR'S RECORDS ONLY)

PARCEL 2: A PARCEL OF LAND CONTAINING APPROXIMATELY 15 ACRES LOCATED SOUTH OF GUN RIVER OFF OF THE SOUTH END OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 10, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST.

ALSO: THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 10, TOWN 1 NORTH, RANGE 11 WEST.

PARCEL #0308-010-001-00

by May 12,2025 to assert any interest in the above described property. If the Defendants fail to do so that shall constitute a default in the above entitled matter, and on June 9, 2025 at 11:00am in the fore/afternoon, this Court shall take proofs and shall terminate whatever interest the Defendant may have in and to the above described property unless a Notice of Interest in the Real Property is filed in this action or unless Defendants or their representatives appear in the Allegan County Circuit Court at that date and time.

Honorable Matthew Antkoviak P-59449
Drafted By:
Nathan E. Tagg (P68994)
Tripp, Tagg & Storrs, Attorneys at Law
202 South Broadway
Hastings, Michigan 49058
(269) 948-2900
ATTEST A TRUE COPY
Brenda L Thomas
Deputy Clerk
2-27 3-13

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65446-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Jean Alyce Behnke, Deceased (a.k.a. Jean Lugten Behnke) Date of Birth:*11/27/1940

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jean Alyce Behnke (a.k.a. Jean Lugten Behnke) , died 08/17/2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Lynn Parsons, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

02/03/202
Jay C. Kakaty P67829
100 Monroe Center NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-774-8000
Lynn Parsons
4431 134th Avenue
Hamilton, MI 49419
616-834-7951

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 09:00 AM, April 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by James A. Laux, A Married Man to Fifth Third Mortgage - MI, LLC, Mortgagee, dated July 31, 2014, and recorded on August 18, 2014, in Liber 3858, Page 910, Allegan County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Fifth Third Bank, National Association, FKA Fifth Third Bank as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 21, 2015 and recorded August 25, 2015 in Liber 3957, Page 153, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Sixty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Nineteen and 30/100 ($63,219.30) including interest at the rate of 4.37500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of Clyde, Allegan County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at a point 344.0 feet North of the South 1/8 post of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 17, Town 2 North, Range 15 West, Clyde Township, Allegan County, Michigan; Thence continuing North 208.71 feet; Thence East 417.42 feet; Thence South 208.71 feet; Thence West 417.42 feet to the place of beginning. Also commencing 344 feet North of the South 1/8 post of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 17, Town 2 North, Range 15 West, Clyde Township, Allegan County, Michigan; Thence East 417.42 feet to the place of beginning of this description; Thence North 208.71 feet; Thence East to Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad right of way; Thence Southerly along said railroad right of way to a point 344 feet North of the South Section line; Thence West to beginning. Commonly known as: 1823 57TH ST, FENNVILLE, MI 49408 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: February 27, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Fifth Third Bank, National Association, FKA Fifth Third Bank as successor by merger to Fifth Third Mortgage Company 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00069-1

(02-27)(03-20)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on April 03, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Dominick Fisher, single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage 1 Incorporated Date of mortgage: July 31, 2020 Recorded on August 11, 2020, Liber 4495, on Page 359, and re-recorded via Affidavit of Correction on February 22, 2023, Liber 4837, on Page 375, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Fifty and 80/100 Dollars ($116,350.80) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Lot 11 of Aspen Acres, Valley Township, Allegan County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 9 of Plats on Page 48, Allegan County Records. Commonly known as 4361 Moore Rd, Allegan, MI 49010 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400

1554489
(02-27)(03-20)

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: ANA ABIGAIL PORTILLO has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on APRIL 14, 2025 AT 9 AM at VIA ZOOM-ID 2878954786 before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater, to change the name of: ELLA MAE PORTILLO to ELLA MAE DECKER

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2025-65448 DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of William Andrew. Rohr, Deceased Date of Birth:*September 18, 1959

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, William Andrew. Rohr, died March 25, 2024.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kimberly S. Rohr, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

February 14, 2025
Willis Law
Davis C. Martin P84717
491 W. South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 492-1040
Kimberly S. Rohr
P.O. Box 15
Otsego, MI 49078
(269) 650-9301

TO ALL CREDITORS:

Settlor David Michael Dobry whose date of birth is 5/12/1941, died 12/13/2024. There is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against David Michael Dobry or the Dobry Revocable Trust dated November 9, 2016, as amended, will be forever banned unless presented to Craig Jerome Dobry, Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Joshua R. Fink (P66210)
3025 Miller Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-994-1077
Craig Dobry
9736 Horseshoe Bend
Dexter, MI 48130

Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

Feb. 27, 1950

Coal shortage 'snow' joke as mercury nosedives; County keeps roads open: John L. Lewis and the weather conspired last week to make life uncomfortable for a large share of Allegan County residents.

Steady winds that brought more snow at regular intervals kept most north-south roads in the county drifted and almost impassable. The financially harassed road commission kept its plows going on what amounted to a round-the-clock schedule.

State roads were given top treatment with the big plows all night long so they would be open in time for early morning traffic.

The commission had hoped to have Wednesday's heavy snow cleared off by Friday at the latest. More snow fell in the interval and the job developed into a project. It was anybody's guess which would hold out the longest—the snow or the road commission's funds.

Feb. 27, 1975

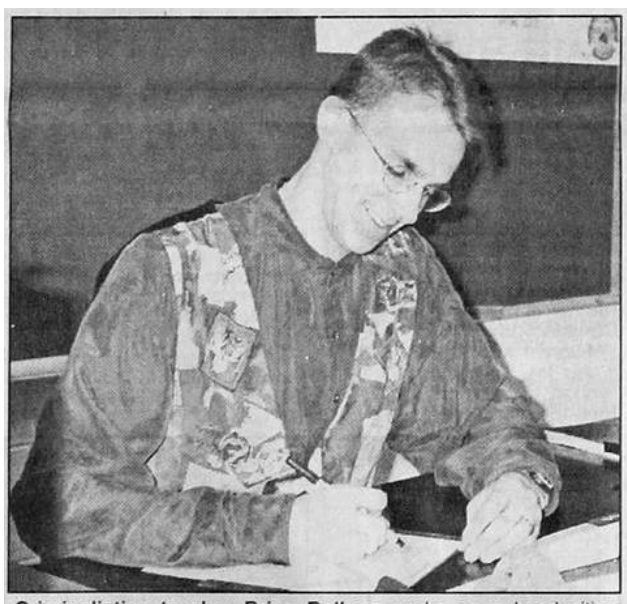
Doctor praises technicians: Quick action and teamwork by Allegan Ambulance technicians Feb. 17 saved the life of an Allegan woman who collapsed at her home, her heart beating erratically.

Ed Sweet and David Hiscock rushed to the Homecrest Villa home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Oisten where Mrs. Oisten was experiencing severe heart problems.

The two men immediately began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and chest massage, placed Mrs. Oisten in the ambulance and, with Hiscock driving and Sweet continuing the resuscitation, raced to Allegan General Hospital where electric shock was used to restore a normal rhythm to Mrs. Oisten's heartbeat.

"She would have died," said Dr. Harry Schneiter. "No doubt about it. She would have died without good resuscitation techniques."

Dr. Schneiter said it is not known why Mrs. Oisten's heart began to beat erratically—medically called ventricular fibrillation—but that she had undergone heart surgery last December and was still recuperating.



Criminalistics teacher Brian Bollone works on a handwriting analysis, one of many kinds of criminal evidence he teaches his students to analyze. (Photo by Lisa Brink)

March 2, 2000

Students offered criminalistics for Wayland science: For more than 100 students at Wayland Union High School, science has become a little more interesting this year.

This is the first year the school has offered criminalistics as a science elective. The course teaches students how to process some of the most common types of evidence in criminal cases.

Brian Bollone, who teaches all four sections of the course, sets up a variety of crime scenarios, giving the students a scene and evidence and having them use the skills they have learned in class to solve the crime.

The students also use previous science courses when trying to solve the crimes, physics to chemistry. Bollone said that while most courses only concentrate on one of the sciences, criminalistics uses all of them as each plays a role in the process.

"The kids can see how the different sciences work together," Bollone said.

At the end of the year-long course, the groups of students will create their own scenarios. They will then exchange their scenarios with those of the other groups of students and try to solve each other's crimes.

Feb. 27, 2020

Next Safe Routes begin construction: After three years and several delays, work is finally ready to begin building a series of sidewalks and paths throughout Allegan to improve access to local schools.

Allegan city director public works Aaron Haskin told city council members at their Monday, Feb. 24, meeting that Milbocker and Sons Inc of Allegan will begin construction June 15, having bid $647,654.89 for the work.

"It came in slightly under the maximum grant amount of $650,535," Haskin said, referring to the Michigan Department of Transportation money paying for all but the engineering costs of the project. The city and township split those costs, expected to total 20 percent of the project.

Work was set to begin last year, but MDOT requested engineers verify that the soil along a portion of M-89be retested to ensure water could properly drain through the proposed stormwater leaching system there.

Borings were drilled, but the community missed its chance to fit into the bid schedule. Bids were then let in December and awarded in January.

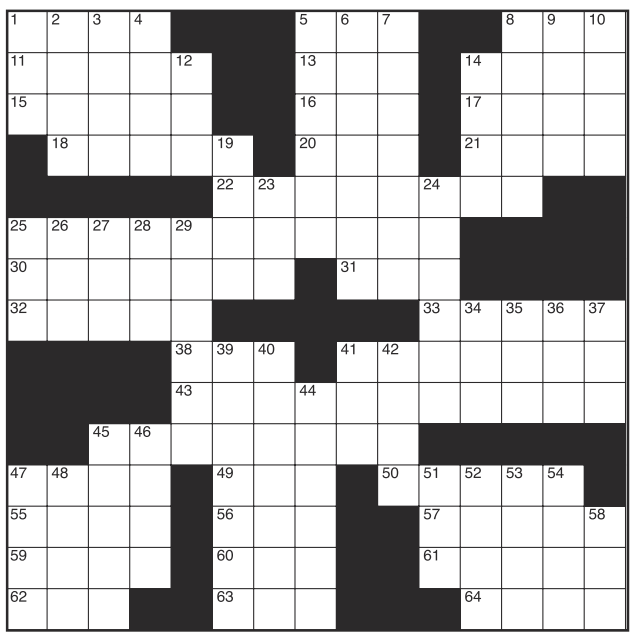
Haskin said construction is scheduled to wrap up in August.

It will add 5-foot-wide sidewalks near Dawson and West Ward elementary schools and L.E. White Middle School, according to Haskin.

The grand was submitted in October 20-16. The competitive grants are federal money dispersed by MDOT in connection with the Michigan Fitness Foundation, created in 1994 as a nonprofit organization to expedite the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports' policies and programs.

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Greek mythological figure
5. Small amount
8. Play a role
11. River in Georgia and Alabama
13. Water in the solid state
14. Ancient Greek sophist
15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
16. Fleece
17. Writer/actress Dunham
18. Behave in a way that belittles
20. Comedienne Gasteyer
21. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
22. Conceits
25. Slowed down
30. Nourishment
31. Midway between east and southeast
32. Fights
33. Comedienne Tyler
38. Standing operating procedure
41. Locks
43. Old
45. Song sung to one's lover
47. Whale ship captain
49. Moved quickly on foot
50. Volcanic craters
55. Large musical instrument
56. Liquefied natural gas
57. Ethiopian town
59. Not closed
60. A team's best pitcher
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Disfigure
63. Prefix denoting 'in a'
64. Sleep

CLUES DOWN
1. S. American plant
2. Soul and calypso song
3. Fruit of the service tree
4. Continent
5. Albania's capital
6. Poisonous plant
7. Argues
8. Assists
9. Town in Galilee
10. Russian leader
12. Promotional materials
14. Wings
19. Not odd
23. Expression of creativity
24. Conceptualize
25. A digital tape recording of sound
26. Peyton's little brother
27. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
28. Difference in potential
29. Owner
34. I (German)
35. Chinese conception of poetry
36. The world of the dead
37. Sign language
39. Coincide
40. Religious observance
41. Confined condition (abbr.)
42. Polite interruption sound
44. Texas ballplayer
45. Type of sword
46. Abba __, Israeli politician
47. Basic unit of a chemical element
48. Native American people in California
51. Swiss river
52. Hebrew calendar month
53. Easily swindled person
54. One point south of southwest
58. Small island (British)

■ see Solution, Page B7

Deaths

Jan. 16, 2025
PAUL JOSEPH HOTRUM, 84, Allegan Twp.

Feb. 5, 2025
MARSHALL ALAN GRIGGS, 68, Holland

Feb. 6, 2025
DOMINGO GUTIERREZ CANALES, 92, Heath Twp.

Feb. 8, 2025
EDWARD LENARD DOVGIN, 96, Ganges Twp.
EARL LEE GILLETTE JR, 86, Trowbridge Twp.

Feb. 9, 2025
ALAN JOHN FIELD, 88, HOlland

Feb. 11, 2025
SANDRA JO MASSIN, 78, Otsego

Feb. 12, 2025
TIMOTHY LEE SIMS, 71, Wayland Twp.
BARBARA ANN BARON, 85, Monterey Twp.
BEVERLY BOERSEN, 74, Heath Twp.
LOIS MAE GABALA, 85, Hopkins

Feb. 13, 2025
VERNA RUTH DEWEERD, 82, Fillmore Twp.

Feb. 15, 2025
DREW MICHAEL HARWICK, 68, Gagnes Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between Feb. 11 and Feb. 19:

ANGEL ALBERTO RUTIAGA, Pullman, and **EDILIA ALVAREZ**, Pullman
REBECCA HEATHER JONES, Fennville, and **WENDELL CHRISTOPHER WELLS**, Fennville
BRADLY WAYNE LOWERY, Allegan, and **KIMBERLY ANNE STUMP**, Allegan
HENRY ELLIOT KLOTT, Douglas, and **HARRISON JUSTIN ELI THOMAS**

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

		1	2	4		7		
2	6				9			
	3			5				
8							6	
9			6					7
			5	3			4	
	4			8		2		
								1
	8		7			6	3	

(See Solution Page B7)

RELIGION SECTION

My favorite university professor taught American Church History. He was a fastidious little man whose hobby was writing operas about obscure Presbyterian preachers and their families. It was a surprise when one day he invited a couple of us be his guests at a traveling Barnum and Bailey Circus, and wanted to be sure we arrived very early. He did not seem like the sort of fellow who would go to a circus.

When we took our seats, Dr. Henry explained why we were there. "I put myself through school as a high wire artist, an aerialist." That left us with mouths wide open in surprise.

He went on to explain that the hardest challenge faced by a new aerialist is to make a mistake, fall, and trust the net to catch them. "Until you accept you WILL fall and have faith and trust in the net, you'll never succeed." I don't remember much about the circus itself, but his explanation about his early career has stayed with me.

Sometimes we hear politicians and others talk about a "social safety net" to make sure that low-income individuals and families are included in the prosperity of our country. Or, firefighters train with nets, just in case someone is trapped in a burning building and has to jump out an upper story window. The net is there to catch them.

For those who believe in Jesus, there is our spiritual safety net. In his tremendous love and compassion for us, Jesus promised the disciples that even though he was returning to heaven, he would send the Holy Spirit to guide and protect them. That applies to us, as well.

For some, that assurance of that spiritual safety net gives us courage to do things we have never done before. Years ago, an older woman started taking art classes. It was something she had wanted to do her entire life, but the opportunity never presented itself. One day her minister told her it was now or never. She enrolled, and when her instructor gave the first assignment, she gasped. She blurted out, "But I've never drawn anything more than my breath!" Then she set to work, and over the next few years became a good painter. After that, she had a stroke that left her right side partially paralyzed. Undaunted, she taught herself to draw with her left hand. She gave a partial smile and laboriously said, "Now I am an abstract artist." She understood she had her spiritual safety net and kept going.

That is an important lesson for us all. We are all challenged with difficult assignments, and it is easy enough to "quit and go home." A fellow once said, "Oh, our family survived because we all learned to quit and go home when things got rough." Thriving is better than merely surviving.

Jesus is with us. The Holy Spirit is with us. Let's go have some fun and trust that the spiritual safety net is in place. Age is no excuse to give up on life. Instead, be the wild person, so trusting in that spiritual safety net, that people will ask, "All right, what is he/she up to this time?" That is living life to the fullest because we know our Lord's safety net is ready to catch us.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomingdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
Pastor Sheri Harris
10:30 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
Pastor Ruth Lowry 685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

M-40 North Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Nathan Strom
Church: 673-4412

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Pastor Alan Carson
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
10976 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal M.I. Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

Restoration Christian Community
Live service 10:00 am Sundays
RestorationChristianCommunity.org
Pastor Austin T Kreutz
269 567 8330

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

The River Flows with Hope and Healing
1652 M-40 North, Allegan
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

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